

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



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★ (IR50p) 45p

They set up their own
Tango and Channel 4

it's more about reputation. You can't regain a reputation. An aspect that both Graham and I have is that we are very inclusive in the way we communicate ideas. We have applied that to marketing our new company. The first thing you need to do is get people's attention. We did it by stating that what we were about was radically different to anything else. Steve [our managing director] said, 'People will want to know what it is.' The reason that we have created our company was important, but it is not something you can write down or put on a website; it all needs to be explained.

We have developed a style of managing the company which is not hierarchical. We don't have senior management meetings, but we are continually involved. There is a strong egalitarian culture and hope, but yet the competitive environment. It's very easy to create opportunities for individuals to脱颖而出, but increasingly at MAP other people are doing that, and it's vital to future growth that we remain a leader.

We want to give them the confidence to step forward and take responsibility. I don't mean to suggest that we understand the democratic process. We encourage people to speak up to give their views, and to be bold. It's probably the most important thing we've done. The leadership has been transformed, and that's what's been reflected in the sales and market share.

It's been a difficult journey, but we have come through it. We have had to change our culture, and that's been reflected in the sales and market share.

IN PICTURES BY
KAREN TACKER

CHELTENHAM
OUR FULL-COLOUR GUIDE TO GOLD CUP DAY

More blood in Ulster as Trimble and Adams stonewall over peace

AS NORTHERN Ireland's leaders clashed verbally in Washington DC yesterday over arms decommissioning, blood was once again split on the streets of Belfast as a leading loyalist was gunned down.

His death, in the tough Protestant Shankill Road area of the city, momentarily looked like a spasm of republican retaliation for this week's loyalist assassination of the nationalist solicitor Rosemary Nelson in Co Armagh.

Within hours, however, it emerged that he had been shot by fellow denizens of the loyalist paramilitary underworld.

It was reported that he had fallen out with former colleagues, possibly because he was too militant or possibly

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent
AND ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

to help broker a solution to the impasse over the new Northern Ireland executive, which is deadlocked over the question of whether or not Sinn Fein can join without IRA arms decommissioning.

"It is not a question of whether, but a question of when," said David Trimble, the first minister-designate.

The Ulster Unionist Party leader insisted that without a first step on disarmament, Sinn Fein cannot join the executive.

If there was pressure from outside for the executive to go ahead without decommissioning, "it won't last the day", he said. Mr Trimble called for Protestant paramilitaries to take the first step towards decommissioning.

But Gerry Adams was equally clear that the Good Friday Agreement did not require such a step. "The President knows as well as Mr Trimble that IRA decommissioning is not a precondition for Sinn Fein to hold ministerial office," the Sinn Fein leader said.

Brushing aside Mr Trimble's concerns, Mr Adams said: "The demands he is making of me? I can't deliver those. He knows that. You know that. Everybody knows that."

A further postponement for the new Assembly beyond the 2 April deadline would be impossible, he added: "The British have already moved this deadline so many times they can't move it again."

But behind-the-scenes discussions have been going on about a possible formula to get around the problem. "The art of politics is to try and find the possible," the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, said.

One small but violent group, the Red Hand Defenders, swore to take revenge on the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which they blamed for the killing. The Red Hand Defenders have claimed that they killed Rosemary Nelson.

As preparations went on for today's funeral of the solicitor, nationalist and Unionist leaders attacked each other verbally in Washington, where they were due to meet President Bill Clinton. The White House is hoping

because they believed he had killed another loyalist figure.

The fact that he had been killed by loyalists rather than republicans caused an immediate easing in a build-up of tension caused by visions of a new tit-for-tat shooting war.

But the situation in both the political world and the paramilitary sphere is still regarded as highly volatile and unpredictable.

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US President Bill Clinton (centre) and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern (right), leaving the Capitol after yesterday's St Patrick's Day lunch in Washington Doug Mills

Blair says no to big pay-off for Santer

BY ANDREW GRICE AND
KATHERINE BUTLER

A MOVE TO block severance payments of up to £300,000 each for Jacques Santer and other disgraced members of the European Commission was launched by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Mr Santer finally bowed to inevitable and promised to stand down as the Commission's president following the scathing criticism of fraud and mismanagement in an official inquiry. But the beleaguered Commission ran into further controversy when it emerged that members who lose their jobs could qualify for payoffs of between £20,000 and £30,000.

Tony Blair told the House of Commons yesterday: "In respect to the payoffs, of

would look 'odd', adding: "If people leave under a cloud with fraud in the air, we would want to make sure that was looked at properly."

Ministers revealed last night that Mr Blair's plans for sweeping reforms of the Commission could include beefing up the Council of Ministers from the European Union's member states. Under Mr Blair's blueprint, each country might nominate a "minister for Europe" to monitor the Commission's work.

After meeting the 19 members of his team in Brussels yesterday, Mr Santer abandoned his efforts to cling to his post until his five-year term of office ends in December. The Commission agreed to stop all



Jacques Santer: Finally promised to stand down

IOC expels six over bribes

BY PAUL LASHMAR

Lamine Keita of Mali, Chile's Sergio Santander Funtini and Samoa's Paul Walkworth. The case of South Korea's Un Yong Kim remains unresolved.

The expulsions followed the allegations of payments of bribes and gifts worth hundreds of thousands of pounds that have rocked the Olympic movement since the end of last year. Each of the six IOC members was accused of receiving money or favours from the Salt Lake City bidding committee that was awarded the 2002 winter Games.

Those expelled were Congo's Jean-Claude Ganga, Ecuador's Agustín Arroyo, Zain El Abdin A Gadir of Sudan, and

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GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World,
a new, smooth, dry full-bodied red.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'For all we knew, Holyfield spent the whole night pinging Lewis's nose with an elastic band'

MARK STEEL CATCHES THE BIG FIGHT, LIVE ON THE RADIO IN THE BAGEL SHOP

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINER,
PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTEAM SMITH

Blair vows to hunt down Nelson killers

THE PRIME MINISTER vowed yesterday that no stone would be left unturned in the hunt for the murderers of the Northern Ireland lawyer Rosemary Nelson.

At Commons question time, Mr Blair said the killers were "not loyal to anything other than their own bigotry and prejudice, and that is not a loyalty shared by any sensible member of the United Kingdom".

He said the killers were "trying to wreck the hopes of peace for the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland".

He spoke as the Chief Constable of Kent was due to arrive in Ulster to begin his investigation into the brutal murder. David Phillips was asked to lead the sensitive inquiry after the Chief Constable of the RUC, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, said he wanted the investigation to be transparent and seen to be so. Mr Phillips will oversee the investigation, in which the FBI is also being given a role.

Sir Ronnie said he thought it important for the Nelson family to know that "not only will this investigation be meticulous, but that it will be transparently obvious to them and the watching world as such".

The decision to bring the FBI into the Nelson investigation

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
AND COLIN BROWN

follows long-standing police links between Dublin, Belfast and Washington. Sir Ronnie initiated the idea soon after Mrs Nelson's death, and discussed it very early the next morning with Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who had just arrived in Washington.

It was prompted by the personal friendship between Sir Ronnie, the Garda Commissioner Pat Byrne and the FBI director Louis Freeh. Both Sir Ronnie and Mr Byrne attended the FBI's National Academy, an 11-week training programme for police managers from the US and around the world, and its National Executive Institute. Policemen from the RUC and the Garda Siochana also attended a special training programme earlier this year at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The FBI would not comment on its role in the Nelson investigation yesterday. British officials said it was much too early to say what assistance the FBI might provide.

A group called the Red Hand Defenders has claimed re-

sponsibility for the car bomb which killed Mrs Nelson, leaving her husband and three children devastated.

Her two sons were brought home early from a school skiing trip in France to be with their father and sister for today's requiem mass at St Peter's Church, Lurgan, followed by a cremation at Roselawn East, Belfast.

Vigils for Mrs Nelson were held last night in Lurgan, Londonderry and Armagh, and more vigils and demonstrations are planned. Meanwhile, the RUC has issued a fresh appeal for information about the murder.

Mrs Nelson's murder and yesterday's shooting of the loyalist paramilitary Frankie Curry heightened anxiety at Westminster over the peace process and the 29 March deadline for making progress on the Northern Ireland assembly.

Some senior politicians are privately convinced that the peace process will collapse. "It's deadlocked and is falling apart," said one Ulster Unionist MP.

But those close to Mo Mowlam said she was sticking by her call for strong nerves in the run-up to the deadline.



A girl helping her friend to put the finishing touches on her make up yesterday as they prepare to take part in the parade which was the highlight of the five day St Patrick's festival in Dublin. Ferran Paredes/Reuters

Straw wants anti-racism lessons in all-white schools

AN ATTEMPT to introduce anti-racism programmes to schools in all-white areas was announced by Home Secretary Jack Straw yesterday when he addressed a race seminar of young people.

At the meeting in the House of Commons, Mr Straw said much of the progress on race relations stemmed from the

BY BOB ROBERTS

"Now it is regarded as received wisdom. What we have got to do is make sure that it is rolled out in other areas, particularly white-only areas where we can get some serious racial stereotyping."

Mr Straw told the audience of young people that it was time to stop seeing race issues as a modern problem and

start celebrating Britain's multi-cultural society.

"A hundred years ago there was in many ways worse discrimination, for example, against Jews and the Irish than there is today against black and Asian people," said Mr Straw.

"Many black and Asian people I speak to say what really

cheeses them off is being regarded as a problem."

"What we have got to start doing is celebrating the fact that Britain has become a great society because it has always been a melting pot for people of different races and religions going right back to the Romans."

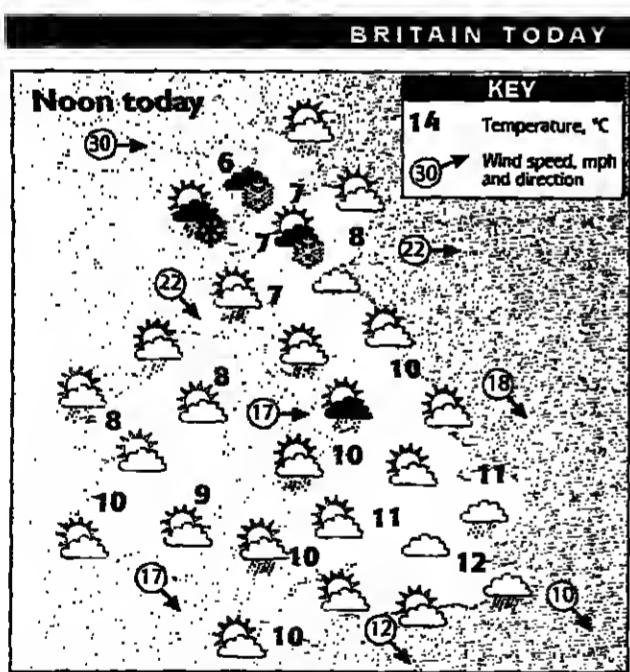
Facing questions from the

audience, Mr Straw clashed with one student over whether he should have sacked Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon after the inquiry report into the handling of the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation.

Mr Straw said the inquiry team had not called for his

sacking. The commissioner had accepted there was institutional racism in the force and Sir Paul had put in place a programme "for securing change".

But Yasmine Amavor, 17, from Acland Burghley High School in Camden, London, said: "He should go and he should have gone already."



LIGHTING UP

	6.30pm	6.30am
Belfast	6.30pm	6.30am
Stretford	6.30pm	6.17am
Glasgow	6.26pm	6.23am
London	6.10pm	6.07am
Worcester	6.18pm	6.15am
Newcastle	6.15pm	6.13am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Armenia	7.50	13.2	7.57	13.2
Cork	5.32	6.6	5.72	5.5
Dover	6.04	5.7	6.27	5.6
Dun Laoghaire	11.18	6.3	11.41	6.9
Greenock	12.48	3.2	11.0	3.9
Harrow	12.00	4.0	12.26	4.2
Holyhead	10.38	5.3	11.02	5.7
Hull (Albert Dk)	8.25	8.8	6.48	7.0
Leeds	6.40	5.1	6.45	5.7
Leeds	2.52	5.7	3.06	5.8
Liverpool	11.37	9.3	11.39	9.8
Millennium Haven	6.33	7.3	6.54	7.3
Portsmouth	7.36	2.2	5.92	2.1
Plymouth	11.38	4.7	-	-
Preston	8.25	5.3	8.45	5.2
Riverside	11.39	3.7	4.33	3.7
Wales	11.39	3.7	11.39	3.7

AIR QUALITY

Region	Bad	Moderate	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
E Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises	06.09
Sun sets	18.10
Moon rises	05.48
Moon sets	19.09

First quarter March 24

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5099 (ask for 10-day forecasts for your area). Source: Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd November. West Country: B3035, B3106, B3107, B3108. Major roadworks on the A361. Until 15th October. AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401 7777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Midwest: 20°C (58°F)

Coldest: 0.0°C (32°F)

Wettest: 2.0 mm

Sunniest: 10.4 hrs

Cloudiest: 10.4 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Wednesday

hrs Rate mm Max

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key: Below 0°C
-10°C to -20°C
-21°C to -30°C
Over 30°C

Sea level pressure mb

MUSIC
LOUD, SOFT, LOUD
SOFT, LOUD...
BEN THOMPSON
MEETS MOGWAI
PLUS SCIENCE

NATHANIEL BRIAN VINEY,
ANDREW WHITFAM SMITH

**Low-tar
brands
mislead
smokers**

BY LUCILLE MURPHY

MILLIONS OF smokers are being deceived into thinking their low-tar cigarettes are good for them and prevent them getting cancer, a report published today.

The Health Education Board (HEA) found that cigarette companies were being misleading by advertising their products as "low-tar" and "low-nicotine".

Mr Simon's 1986 *Graceland* album tried to introduce the world to "township jive". But it was criticised in South Africa and abroad as anti-apartheid activists accused the singer of breaching UN cultural sanctions against apartheid in the 1980s, the darkest days of the struggle.

In a 108-page judgment, Judge John Foxcroft found the former Calvinist minister, 53, guilty on four counts of fraud or theft totalling £1.3 million, worth £275,000 at the time and £130,000 today, owing to the band's fall in value. He acquitted him on 23 other charges.

Judge Foxcroft said Boesak, who received R62,000 from Mr Simon after the singer's 1987 *Graceland* tour, had "treated the money as his own". He said that Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice (FPJ) had passed on only R423,000 to the Children's Trust, of which the charismatic former cleric was a trustee, along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Just as Mr Simon, the one-time musical collaborator of Art Garfunkel, felt misunderstood when he was accused of preaching United Nations sanctions against South Africa with his *Graceland* project in 1986, Boesak failed to bridge his own troubled waters.

Boesak's oratorical skills were unrivalled in the 1980s, when the apartheid struggle badly needed a leader of his charisma. Those were the days

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Johannesburg

world disagreed and Mr Simon came up against protests for several years afterwards.

As former president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Boesak learnt to lead a double life. Alongside his public work with the FPJ, he also began to indulge a most unpriestly taste for the good life. Only his powerful friends saved him from disgrace earlier on.

While still a clergyman in the 1970s, he was found in breach of the apartheid-era Immorality Act for conducting a love affair outside his marriage, with a youth official of the South African Council of Churches. On that occasion he managed to retain his church post. A second affair, with his present wife, Elma Botha, led to his losing his ministry in the Church.

Judge Foxcroft said that Boesak had taken some of the

money from the foundation to pay off Ms Botha's debts. Other money went on buying houses in smart white areas of the Cape and on taking his family to Disneyland. The judge said that donors and trustees had been fooled by Boesak's "larger-than-life personality" and by his international reputation.

But his were the proverbial feet of clay. After the years of struggle, Boesak was appointed leader of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the Western Cape. But he proved an unsuccessful politician.

The Western Cape was the one area in South Africa where the ANC failed to win a majority in the country's first all-race elections in 1994. Instead, the region remained under the control of the former ruling National Party. Disappointed, President Nelson Mandela, a personal friend, offered Boesak the post of ambassador to the United Nations the following year.

By then the trustees of the FPJ had reported him to the police and he declined to accept the post. Still, Archbishop Tutu and many prominent human

rights activists spoke up for Boesak, refusing to believe the charges levelled against him.

The ANC organised its own inquiry, which cleared him. The foundation's foreign donors insisted on taking him to court.

In 1997, his bookkeeper, Freddie Steenkamp, 41, pleaded guilty to stealing R90,000 from the FPJ and was jailed for six years. Boesak, who will be sentenced next week, had pleaded not guilty to 20 counts of theft and 12 counts of fraud. He faces an unspecified fine or prison sentence.

The story of Boesak's rise to prominence in the anti-apartheid movement had an almost Biblical quality. Born in 1945 in the Northern Cape to a mixed-race family, his hatred of

racism was stirred when his family was forced to move from their home by the notorious Group Areas Act, which banned blacks and mixed-race "coloureds" from living in areas designated for whites.

In the early 1980s he gained fame by sponsoring a resolution declaring apartheid a religious heresy at an assembly of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Ottawa in Canada. The move was a great success and after the motion was passed he was elected president of the organisation.

Soon, Boesak was at the forefront of the formation of the United Democratic Front - the grouping of civil society organisations which fought the white state until the ANC was

houses in the up-market Cape Town suburbs of Vredehoek and Constantia and giving R14,000 to Elma.

In court yesterday, accompanied by his wife and daughter Elma, Boesak stared straight ahead as Judge Foxcroft read through the 27 charges one by one. Afterwards, Boesak did not comment to reporters, apparently he had been hoping to return to the United States if he was acquitted, with plans to teach and preach.

In Stockholm yesterday, Sida said it was distressed by the misuse of funds "intended for poor communities". There was no comment from Mr Simon. The singer did not testify at Boesak's court case.

Boesak, with his wife, Elma, leaving court after he was convicted of misappropriating funds from a charity for children

Mike Hutchings



Paul Simon during his *Graceland* tour David Sandison



Elma Botha, leaving court after he was convicted of misappropriating funds from a charity for children Mike Hutchings

Michael Jackson takes the rock stars' guilt trip

BY PAUL McCANN AND
ALEX DUVAL SMITH

star guilt about making so much money with an art form which originated in Africa, but Africa's only competition as a target for rock star largesse has been Aids research.

The biggest charity event in history was aimed at raising money for Africa and was run by a dishevelled rock star: Bob



Michael Jackson and Peter Gabriel: Help for Africa

Geldof's Band Aid record and Live Aid event raised over £120m from a public shocked by the images coming from the famine in Ethiopia.

At the height of the greedy Eighties, Live Aid managed to reconnect some rock stars with their consciences and generated a million more charity tours and concerts. From Greenpeace to Amnesty International, from freeing Nelson

Mandela to saving Brazilian rainforests, it became hard for some of the world's needy to avoid rock star guilt in the immediate aftermath of Live Aid.

And Africa is at the heart of the latest campaign by stadium rockers to make the world's better place. U2's Bono is fronting the Jubilee 2000 campaign to get the third world debt burden lifted for the new millennium and while Geldof and Live Aid raised £130m in 1985, Bono wants to have the £145m paid by Africa in debt repayments every year lifted by the end of this year.

More modest, but more consistent, rock star giving to Africa is to be found amongst those who have had a long-standing artistic and political connection with the continent.

Peter Gabriel started his long love-in with Africa when his 1980 song "Biko", about murdered South African activist Steve Biko, acquired the status of an anthem for the anti-apartheid movement.



Hills are biggest air-travel risk

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

AIR TRAVELLERS are most likely to die in planes that smash into high ground such as the side of a mountain because of mistakes by pilots or crew, according to a survey.

Research into the 620 fatal air accidents since 1980 has isolated the most likely ways for passengers to meet their death and the most frequent causes. The world-wide study by the

Aviation Authority, the safety regulator of UK-registered planes and British airspace, found two-thirds of crashes were due to crew error.

At a meeting of UK airline bosses tomorrow the CAA will tell them the seven most likely circumstances behind acci-

dents where passengers are killed. These are, in order of priority:

- Controlled flight into terrain - mainly high ground such as mountains or hillsides;

- Approach and landing accidents - a large number of accidents take place as a plane nears the runway;

- Loss of control - pilot error or a failure of on-board systems;

- Design-related accidents, including failures in plane design;

- Weather-related accidents, including flying into bad weather against advice;

- Occupant safety and survivability - failures in design or defects that prevent passengers leaving aircraft after a crash;

- Mid-air collision, something that has not occurred in UK-controlled airspace.

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SAFETY
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OFT inquiry into high car prices

A INQUIRY was ordered yesterday into the way new cars are sold in Britain. The competition watchdog claimed manufacturers and dealers distort the market to push up prices.

John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, referred the £24bn industry to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after finding evidence of anti-competitive practices.

The MMC will look at the huge differences in prices between the UK and the Continent, and the exclusive relationships between car makers and dealers allowed under European competition rules.

Mr Bridgeman criticised the recommended resale price (RRP) mechanism which he said led to higher prices and subsidised inefficient dealers.

He said people were paying too much for their cars because dealers were unable to negotiate discounts for bulk purchases in the same way as fleet managers.

Mr Bridgeman also launched an attack on the industry for its "dilatory and uncooperative" response to his investigation. He warned that from next month he would be able to prosecute anyone who blocked an Office of Fair Trading inquiry.

"It is clear the market isn't working properly and that there is an imbalance of power

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

between manufacturers and dealers which is distorting competition," Mr Bridgeman said.

This is characterised by suppliers' continued refusal to give volume discounts to dealers which could be passed on to the consumer as lower prices and by other practices designed to exert a strong influence over selling prices.

"I believe that this, coupled with a general reduction in basic dealer margins and a greater emphasis on discretionary bonuses, is limiting the ability of dealers to offer con-

sumers lower prices."

The MMC should consider whether the practice of RRP's should be outlawed in the same way it was abolished for electrical goods, he said.

The motor industry said it would co-operate fully with the MMC inquiry, saying manufacturers and dealers "had nothing to hide". The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the European market was "highly regulated and competitive" and the industry worked within UK and European rules.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said the Government welcomed the decision. "Hopefully it will lead to a bet-

ter deal for British consumers in line with the approach we intend to take on this."

The Consumers' Association said the "cosy" relationship between manufacturers and dealers produced unjustifiably high prices for UK consumers. "We will show the MMC inquiry our detailed evidence of the scale of the problem as part of our campaign to end the great British rip-off," said its director Sheila McKechnie.

Retail car dealerships said the inquiry would ease the stranglehold that motor manufacturers had on prices. The National Franchised Dealerships Association said ordinary motorists were being charged more to subsidise fleet car sales.

The MMC's inquiry, which will take nine months, is the second investigation by the commission into the industry in nine years.

Next year the member states of the European Commission start to negotiate the motor industry's block exemption from the competition rules under the Treaty of Rome. The exemption, which was last ratified in 1992, expires in 2002 and MPs say it should not be renewed. Mr Bridgeman's investigation follows a number of surveys showing that many new cars are far cheaper in Europe than they are in the UK.

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WHERE TO DRIVE A BARGAIN

Country	Renault Clio 1.2	Ford Fiesta 1.2	BMW 520i
Austria	13,803	10,030	35,172
Belgium	12,115	8,723	31,169
France	12,874	9,590	30,950
Germany	12,638	10,358	29,757
Netherlands	15,378	10,508	37,181
Ireland	16,748	13,631	39,425
Italy	11,483	9,038	31,183
Luxembourg	11,514	8,723	29,375
Portugal	11,389	10,103	38,432
Spain	12,912	8,698	31,517
UK	14,112	10,858	32,201

Source: European Commission
Prices in £ as at May 1 1998. Converted into euros at rates fixed on January 1. UK floating rate as at 1 January.

Outlook, page 21



Alan Barnes playing as guest musician with the James Watson Trio yesterday at Piazza Express in Soho, London, where the BT British Jazz Awards were being held. Barnes won the alto saxophone category. John Vos

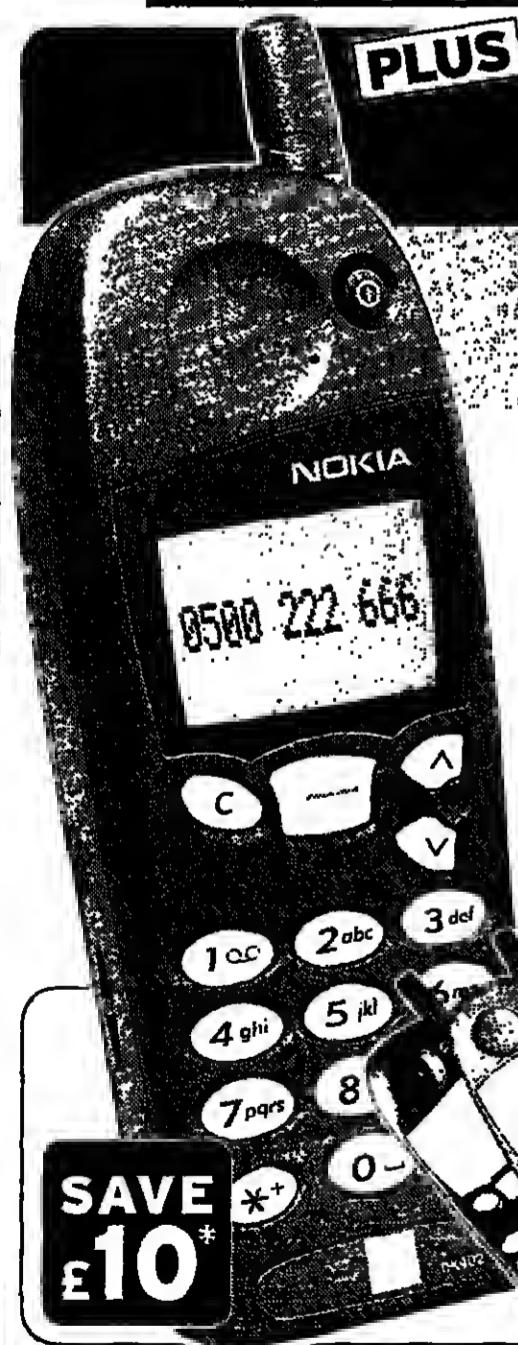
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Tabloids turn tables on Queen Mother

By KATHY MARKS

SHE IS 99 this year and a national treasure, but no longer is the Queen Mother immune from the criticisms levelled at the rest of her wayward family.

In recent days, there have been rare stern words about the most popular member of the Royal Family from sections of the British media that can normally be relied upon for unstinting support.

It is not the Queen Mother's fondness for a stiff gin or a flattery on the horses that has prompted the volte-face in the tabloid press; nobody minds those endearing human foibles. It is the revelation that she is, to put it mildly, a hopeless spendthrift.

The Queen Mother is unable to live on her annual income from the Civil List of £543,000. Indeed, she has reportedly run up an overdraft of £4m at Coutts, the royal bank.

This profligacy prompted Richard Littlejohn, a columnist with *The Sun* newspaper, to declare on Tuesday that she was "spending money like it's going out of fashion".

The size of her overdraft was "going it a bit, even for a pensioner with a gold card and an account at William Hill", said Mr Littlejohn.

It is not the tone of such criticism, but the very fact of it that is startling.

This sprightly old lady is the one royal usually regarded as unassailable.

As Judy Wade, the royal correspondent for *Hello!* magazine, put it yesterday: "The Queen Mother is above reproach. You don't attack her."

Pampered, privileged and such an affront to decency



The Queen Mother, usually beyond reproach, making tabloid headlines this week because of her overdraft

land - are filled with fine furniture and antiques.

In yesterday's *Daily Mail*, the columnist Lynda Lee-Potter condemned what she called the Queen Mother's "grandiose, sybaritic existence" and suggested that she clear the overdraft by selling off some of her valuables. "Other old ladies have to sell their engagement rings, their few hits of jewellery and, in some cases, their houses to pay for their nursing home fees," she said.

According to one report, the Queen recently urged her mother to be a little more frugal. "But I am making economies," replied the Queen Mother, who was staying at the Castle of Mey at the time. "Just look, I haven't replaced the carpets."

The Queen Mother was not enough of a shock for the Queen Mother; there was more bad news for her yesterday. She was forced to watch as her fancied horse, Easter Ross, fell at the second fence at the Cheltenham Festival.

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Five arrested in hoax fire call investigation

FIVE PART-TIME firemen were arrested yesterday after an investigation into allegations that firefighters made hoax emergency calls and started blazes to earn extra money.

A police inquiry was set up last month after the fire service received a tip-off that retained officers, who provide weekend and night cover, were creating work so they could claim a £10 call-out fee.

Retained firefighters receive a payment each time they are called out as well as a basic fee, while full-time staff are paid a salary no matter how many calls they answer.

Detectives yesterday questioned five part-time firefighters - all men - from Horwich Fire Station in Greater Man-

chester following allegations of fraud. An alleged hoax fire on moorland is reported to be a key part of the inquiry. Police examined records of fire calls as part of their investigations. The fraud allegations span several years.

Retained firefighters receive a payment each time they are called out as well as a basic fee, while full-time staff are paid a salary no matter how many calls they answer.

Detectives yesterday questioned five part-time firefighters - all men - from Horwich Fire Station in Greater Manchester. They are investigating the allegations.

"These arrests will come as a shock to the people of Horwich who have always had the greatest admiration for their firefighters. We currently have a recruitment drive in the area and hope that this will not deter applicants."

Confirming the arrests, Greater Manchester Fire Officer George Almond said: "This is a very serious matter and if found guilty of any criminal activity, they will be summarily dismissed."

"Meanwhile I would like to assure the people of Horwich that contingency plans have been put in place to ensure that they have adequate fire cover overnight and at the weekend."

034

Independence for God's chosen people? There's nowt so queer as Yorkshire folk

BY JOHN DAVISON AND
ESTHER LEACH

IF GOD is a Yorkshireman, as it is generally assumed in that part of the world, then yesterday would have seen him smiling especially benignly on his chosen people.

For some of the more outspoken among them have raised a banner of revolt against southern dominance and are bidding for a measure of independence and home rule. Yorkshire, if these zealots get their way, is to have its own Parliament giving it similar autonomous powers to the planned elected assemblies for Scotland and Wales and for London. In line with the Government's stated policy of devolving more power to the regions, the campaign wants to "assert the right of the people of Yorkshire and the Humber to determine their own domestic affairs".

Headed by local politicians, trade unionists and voluntary organisations, it insists that Yorkshire is the best place for England's first regional assembly because of its strong identity and "undisputed boundaries". It would restore the county to within the old borders of the three Ridings, which existed from before the Doomsday Book, right up to local government reorganisation in 1974. An assembly would provide an elected balance to the Regional Development Agency which has already been set up, say supporters, and give the county added clout when negotiating with the EU for regional funding.

Launched at the Guildhall in York yesterday with the Archbishop of York, no less, as president, the campaign will put the argument for devolution to the local people and to the Government over the next year. A grant for £25,000 has been given by the Rowntree Foundation, also based in York, to pay for a director to run the campaign full time.

Paul Jagger, the TUC Yorkshire regional secretary who chaired the launch, said: "We have a very clear advantage for doing this first in Yorkshire, because there is a very clear eco-



Shoppers yesterday in Pontefract which campaigners want included in a parliament for Yorkshire

nomic and cultural sense of Yorkiness. Everyone has heard of famous Yorkshiremen including Michael Parkinson, Dickie Bird and Geoff Boycott."

Mr Parkinson was characteristically blunt yesterday about what he thought of the scheme. "Well it's just a daff idea. What sort of barny organisation has come up with that?" he said. "I frankly don't care one way or 'tther because it won't make any difference at all."

He did, however, warm to the theme of Yorkshire distinctiveness, despite himself. "We are as entitled as the Scots and the Welsh without doubt. We are our own clan of people, even though it's only Yorkshiremen who believe that," he said. "We are convinced that we have the moral authority and the God-given right to do this."

Alan Bennett, whose monologues have fixed a certain Yorkshire outlook in syrup,



"I frankly don't care one way or 'tther because it won't make any difference at all" - Michael Parkinson

"While we are contemplating joining Europe is not the time to be smaller in mind set" - Maureen Lipman



"I wouldn't support it. Not unless they made me Queen" - Barbara Taylor Bradford

In Pontefract, home of liquorice manufacture since the Middle Ages, Mick Allard, 40, said: "Regional assemblies just mean more bureaucracy. People aren't living in the real world if they think Yorkshire could stand completely alone. Independence, well it's not going to happen, is it?"

Linda Pennoch, 38, said: "It's not practical for Yorkshire to stand alone, it's just not possible. But people ought to know we are not just about flat caps and whippets either. In fact, I don't know anyone who's got a whippet."

Novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford, another famous Yorkshire daughter but now resident in New York, thought the idea "preposterous", with one exception. "Is this a joke? Yorkshire's a county not a city state," she said. "I wouldn't support it. Not unless they made me Queen."

Leading article. Review, page 3

would say "not a word" on the subject. Dickie Bird would not utter one, either.

Maureen Lipman took time out between performances of *Aunt Eller in Oklahoma!* in London's West End to give an

opinion, and said: "You certainly don't take the Yorkshire out of the girl. I've been here since 1967, but I still list Hull as my birthplace in the programme. And one of my proudest moments of my life was

having a sewage device named after me in Hull," she said.

"But I don't think this would be a good idea. While we are contemplating joining Europe is not the time to be becoming smaller in mind set."

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Samaranch escapes the bloodletting

THE CANADIAN vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, Dick Pound, described it as a "very harrowing day". Some 90 of the 100 unblemished members of the IOC gathered yesterday in the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne, self-proclaimed "Capital Olympique" to vote for the first time in the Olympic movement's 106-year history to expel members for corruption.

The "crimes" of the six IOC members were involvement in accepting bribes and gifts worth \$1.2m (£750,000) in the Salt Lake City bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The meeting opened dramatically when the Olympic president, Juan Antonio Samaranch of Spain, put his leadership to the test in a secret confidence vote.

He said it was important "to take the necessary steps to be certain this very sad episode in the history of the International Olympic Movement never happens again."

He won the vote 88-2 and announced the setting up of an

BY PAUL LASHMAR

ethics committee to examine the way the Olympic movement will award the Games in the future.

A member of the IOC assembly, Alex Gilady, said: "The mood of the meeting was tense but responsible and I think the right thing was done." He also said he felt that Mr Samaranch's position as president was secure after such a resounding vote in his favour.

After the meeting Mr Pound said: "It was a most extraordinary session, with extraordinary emotions."

Nine other members have received written warnings of varying severity. One case remains open. A South Korean, Kim Un Yong, until recently the heir apparent of Mr Samaranch, has received a "severe warning" but Mr Pound said yesterday that one allegation against Mr Kim remained to be resolved.

He has been accused of soliciting benefits for two of his children and a Russian teenager from the Salt Lake City bidding committee. Mr Pound's

commission is waiting for Mr Kim's lawyers to provide evidence that the South Korean says will exonerate him. If that is not forthcoming he may still be expelled.

Mr Kim was involved in an incident at the pre-assembly meeting on Tuesday. A former



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Olympic president, making his opening speech at yesterday's meeting in Lausanne

Reuters

South Korean CIA officer, he shouted abuse and adopted a taekwondo [martial-arts] stance at the IOC director-general Francois Carrard, a member of Mr Pound's inquiry team. Yesterday Mr Carrard said it had been "a minor incident that is now closed".

Whether the wholesale reforms offered by the IOC will save the Olympic movement is not yet clear. In the United States a number of separate investigations are under way into the Salt Lake City bid. They have built an unstoppable momentum and may lead to criminal prosecutions.

Senator John McCain, the chairman of the Senate commerce committee, said that "the demand for Congress to act will be irrepressible unless the IOC adopts major reforms". More important will be the response of the dozen or so big corporate sponsors of the Olympics such as Kodak, McDonald's and Samsung. The survival of Messrs Samaranch and Kim, at least for the moment, may not reassure them sufficiently to continue to pour millions of dollars into what many see as the shop-soiled Games.

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Pro-animal bomb plotter is jailed

BY BRIAN FARMER

coming and going from an alleged bomb making factory at a flat in Northampton. Humphries visited the flat regularly.

The objective of this conspiracy was either to endanger life or cause serious injury," said the judge. "These devices were in an advanced stage of preparation. All that was required was a battery to set them off.

"It must be clearly understood by activists of whatever sort or whatever cause that seeking to disrupt companies, people's lives or whatever has got to be dealt with by severe sentences."

Humphries was said to be a committed animal welfare campaigner. He was given seven years on the conspiracy charge and two years for possession to run concurrently.

IN BRIEF

Man charged over 7 arson deaths

A MAN was yesterday charged with seven counts of murder after the arson attack on a house in north-east London on 6 March in which members of four generations of a family died. Scotland Yard said the man was arrested at an address in east London. He will appear today at Stratford Magistrates Court.

Ashton admits lying to the police

LABOUR MP Joe Ashton yesterday admitted lying to the police about his age when he was questioned after being caught in a massage parlour. Mr Ashton, 65, told police he was 64. The married MP for Bassetlaw continued to deny going to the Northampton massage parlour for sex.

Labour MP's fraud trial nears end

THE JUDGE in the trial of a Labour MP accused of election expenses irregularities yesterday began his summing up. Fiona Jones, the 42-year-old MP for Newark, is charged with knowingly making a false expenses return. The trial was adjourned until today.

Inquiry into gynaecologist case

SECRETARY OF STATE for Health Frank Dobson has set up an independent inquiry into the handling of the case of gynaecologist Rodney Ledward, who was struck off after his botched operations left more than 200 women in Kent maimed.

The Moon was once part of Earth

SIMILARITIES in the mineral composition of the Earth and the Moon suggest that both share a common origin. Data from Nasa in the US shows that early in the Earth's history the Moon was ripped away by a huge planet-sized object.

DAVID AARONOVITCH



To make the EC
democratic would be
to make it a threat

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 3



CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
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Election of President

The Fellows of Corpus Christi College are seeking a new President in succession to Sir Keith Thomas who will retire on 31 August 2000. Anyone who wishes to apply for an interview or enquire about applications, is invited to contact the Vice-President, Professor O G Grahame-Smith, Corpus Christi College, Oxford OX1 4JF by 1st May 1999. Contact telephone: (01865) 221001, fax: (01865) 787712, e-mail: david.grahame-smith@cliphams.ox.ac.uk. The College prospectus and further particulars are available from him and can also be found on www at http://www.ccc.ox.ac.uk.

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Heart ward 'known as killing fields'

THE FATHER of a baby who died after heart surgery at the Bristol Royal Infirmary told a public inquiry yesterday that he would never have allowed the operation to go ahead if he had known the true risks.

Michael Parsons, whose daughter Mia died on the operating table in May 1993, aged 11 months, criticised the hospital and its staff for failing his daughter, showing insensitivity to the family's distress and for covering up its poor record in paediatric cardiac surgery.

Since her death, he said he had learned that the paediatric

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

quiry who underwent complex heart operations over 11 years between 1984 and 1995.

Mr Parsons' daughter, who was born with Down's syndrome, had a hole in her heart. The surgery to correct it was carried out by James Wisheart, the senior surgeon who was struck off by the medical register last year by the General Medical Council after its investigation.

Before the operation, Mr Wisheart had told Mr Parsons, a kite maker from West Wales, and his wife Pauline, that there was a 20 per cent risk of Mia

dying as a result. They were so impressed by his caring approach that even though she died, they sent him a thank you letter for doing all he could. But last June, five years after their daughter's death, the couple discovered from a BBC Panorama programme, shown after the GMC case, that Mr Wisheart's death rate was closer to 50 per cent.

Mr Parsons said he found it "incomprehensible" that the cardiologist who diagnosed Mia had referred her to Mr Wisheart knowing his poor success rate. "Had he told us the truth we

would never have agreed to the referral. I maintain my consent was obtained by giving me deliberately false information. In my view that is criminal."

On the day of the operation the hospital committed a series of blunders. Nurses failed to give Mia sufficient drugs to sedate her and she screamed so loudly when injected with the anaesthetic that her parents were shocked. Later, news of her death was broken to them on a public ward, causing distress to another parent and her child. The Parsons were ushered into a "junk room" to say

goodbye to their daughter, who appeared dressed in unfamiliar clothes, and were then hustled from the hospital.

"The way they treated us after the death was inept, unfeeling and thoughtless. Had it been handled differently I think Pauline and I would be far less hurt than we are today. Our memories of Bristol are all of pain," Mr Parsons said.

The couple cremated their daughter but learned only a few weeks ago that six years later the hospital still has her heart, which was removed at the post mortem examination.

Mr Parsons had harsh words for the GMC whose inquiry he had heard about only after it had ended. His daughter's case had been included, anonymously, because the council had been unable to trace the family. "Their efforts to contact us were a farce," he said.

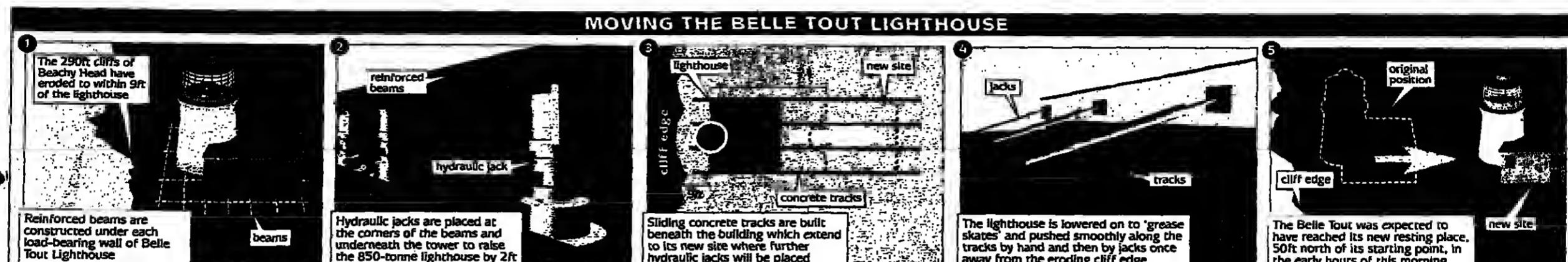
But Philip Wagstaff, 34, a Customs and Excise officer from Devon, said he had been impressed by the skill and care shown to his daughter, despite the complications that followed her surgery. Amy, who was born with holes in her heart,

had an operation in 1993 by Mr Wisheart, next day she required emergency surgery to remove a blood clot but has since made a good recovery.

Mr Wagstaff said: "Mr Wisheart came across as a very caring man. He took time to explain the problem to us and what he was going to do. He was very open with us and was aware that as parents it was very frightening. We were confident in his abilities."

He added that the nurses had also been caring and supportive.

The inquiry continues.



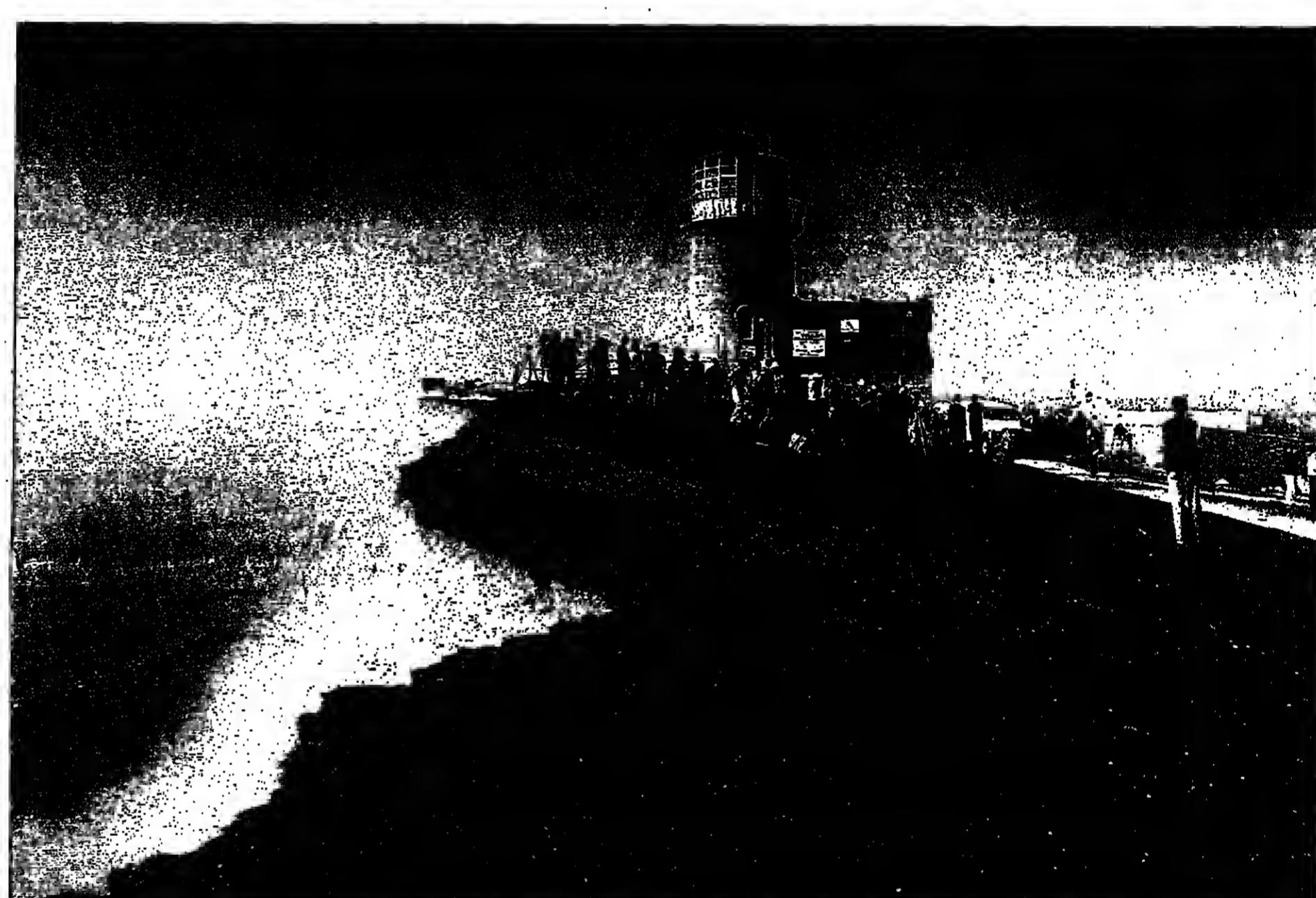
Gently does it...850 ton lighthouse is rescued

BY CLARE GARNER

THE LIGHTHOUSE at Beachy Head, built 150 years ago to save the lives of sailors, was rescued from the threat of the sea yesterday. Crowds turned out to witness the engineering feat to move the 850-ton lighthouse 50ft back from the cliff edge using greased float pads and a series of powerful hydraulic jacks. They brought picnics to pass the nine hours the move was to take.

At midday, progress was not looking promising. The lighthouse had only moved one metre, but Paul Kiss, managing director of Abbey Pynford, the contractor, was confident that the job would be completed by the end of the day. "You're wondering why it's taking so long," he said. "The reason is that we are very concerned about the possibility of cliff failure. All we have to do is rupture some of the underlying strata and that would be the end of it. Once we get into a routine, we should know that they would hit the rocks once they could no longer see the light."

The most precarious part of the operation was, apparently, the beginning. The force of the initial burst by the jacks could have sent the lighthouse into the sea. The owners of Belle Tout Lighthouse, Mark and Louise Roberts, who paid £250,000 for



The operation to move the lighthouse, made famous on BBC TV's 'Life and Loves of a She Devil', getting underway at Beachy Head yesterday

David Rose

away from mainland Europe in 6500BC.

This is largely due to the "tilt effect" of earth movements dating back to the last ice age which mean Scotland is rising while the south is sinking. In re-

cent years erosion has speeded up, with many blaming higher sea levels caused by global warming.

A light flashed from Belle

Tout for the last time on 27 September 1902. In 1929 the Cor-

poration of Eastbourne bought the whole of Beachy Head and 4,000 acres stretching westwards and northwards. The purchase included the lighthouse.

A number of private owners

have leased the lighthouse, including Joy Cullinan, 93, who owned it from 1955 to 1980. She now lives in London but returned yesterday to pull the lever which started the jacks.

The BBC used the light-

house as the setting for its dramatisation of Fay Weldon's *Life and Loves of a She Devil*.

Before it was restored, the lighthouse was used for "friendly fire" target practice by Canadian troops during the Second World War. Yesterday's move should ensure Belle Tout's safety for another 50 years. Mrs Roberts is hopeful that the home will see her out, but just in case, the engineering underpinning will stay in place.

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-animal bomber is jailed

By BRIAN FYNTHORPE

IN BRITAIN

charged over 7 arson deaths

a admits lying to the police

MP's fraud trial nearing

into gynaecologist case

son was once part of E&P

D AARONOVITCH

To make the EC democratic would be to make it a threat

THE RAILWAY REVIEW PAGE

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Blair runs his mouth ragged over Brussels and cat tucks

MR BLAIR was having trouble with his consonants yesterday. His remarks during Prime Minister's Questions were dotted with an unusual number of verbal trip-ups.

First of all, he assured the House that the last budget would, contrary to Conservative claims, lead to a "cats tuck". Some Tories murmured uneasily at this - should British cats really be tucked, and why hadn't Gordon Brown explained this unusual veterinary policy in his Budget speech?

Then Mr Blair assured David Winnick, supplier of moral indig-

nation to the front bench, that "no stone would be left unturned in the hunt" for the murderers of Rosemary Nelson. Another murmur from assembled MPs - who naturally felt that the RUC should be doing more than unleashing its considerable powers of investigation.

Later still, the Prime Minister reassured Kenneth Purchase that more people were now entering the "Labour party". He actually meant "the labour market" but, these last wishful thoughts apart, all these stumbled slips were less Freudian slips than simple evidence that the Prime Minister had been running his mouth ragged over the last

few days, sweaty telephone crumpling his earlobe as he attempted to parlay the Brussels earthquake into the opportunity for a new model city.

Mr Hague, I think, would be grateful if it were only his lips that disobeyed him.

Returning to the issue of Europe, Mr Hague attempted to apply "kitchen table Conservatism" rules to the debate: "This is an opportunity to talk about the future and not the past" he said, almost pleadingly, underlining his recent insistence that his party should move on from past errors.

This is easier said than done, of

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

course, since the group most likely to bring up the Conservatives' past record is that army of tor-

mentors facing him across the dispatch box, and while Mr Hague's authority over his own party is a gauzy thing at the best of times, it is sheet steel compared to his discipline over the Labour party.

He is also at a disadvantage when it comes to his injunction to set aside knee-jerk partisanship and be constructive about the more acceptable elements of Labour policy. If he wants to offer the statesmanlike gift of cross-party support, he's only got Mr Blair to hand it to and hostilities must cease temporarily to allow the exchange to take place.

The Prime Minister, on the other hand, can continue firing on Mr Hague while hurling olive branches over his head at the distinguished Europhiles on the Tory back benches - as he did yesterday during another brisk exchange on the European Commission.

Mr Hague did rally now and then, scoring a hit on the Deputy Prime Minister with his dismissive description of Mr Prescott "chasing angel fish round a coral reef".

Mr Prescott tried at first to laugh off this jab at his underwater fact-finding mission but making light of insults is not one of his

innate skills - a few seconds later the smile vanished and his ruddy suntan flushed an even deeper red.

Still, this cheered up Tory back-benchers and Mr Hague has also, I think, identified a promising pressure point with his suggestion that Parliament should be given increased powers to scrutinise Government appointments of European commissioners.

MPs on all sides get excited at the idea of reviving their somewhat shivelled powers - and it is very hard for Mr Blair not to sound like a killjoy when he squashes the notion flat in his reply.

Hague calls for MPs to vet commissioners

WILLIAM HAGUE sided with Labour left-wingers yesterday when he demanded a strengthening of Parliament's power to vote for and appoint British commissioners in Brussels.

The Tory leader echoed Tony Benn's call for greater powers for MPs over appointments to the European Commission in light of this week's exposure of fraud and mismanagement by an of-

ficial inquiry.

But Tony Blair repeatedly re-jected his proposal during ques-

tion time, stressing the Tories had had 18 years to change the system and failed to do so.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Mr Hague had already enjoyed his own right to nominate a new commissioner when he recommended Sir Alastair Goodlad, the former Tory chief whip, for the next opening. "You never said once it should be done in a different way," he added.

"In respect of parliamentary scrutiny, of course they are always subject to parliamentary scrutiny. But I believe the system of appointment that has applied under successive governments is the best system."

EUROPE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Under the present convention, Labour, as the governing party, takes turns with the opposition parties - namely the Tories and Liberal Democrats - in nominating commissioners.

Mr Blair also made it clear that any commissioner found "guilty of fraud or misconduct" should not get large pay-offs when they leave office.

However, launching his attack Mr Hague insisted that this was an opportunity to enhance the role of Parliament: "Is there any reason why we should not agree across the House that the appointment of new British commissioners should be subject to parliamentary scrutiny and the approval of this House?..."

"You have not appointed commissioners before and I haven't been involved in it before. This is an opportunity to talk about the future, not the past... Can't you agree for once to expand the role of Parliament?"

Replies the Prime Minister said Parliament was "al-

ways entitled to scrutinise whatever it wishes to".

"I know you try to say it was nothing to do with you the last 18 years... in relation to the nomination of European commissioners, you have made your nomination on behalf of the Conservative Party and as far as I recollect your letter never once said it should be done in a different way."

Mr Hague said it was of "paramount importance" to say to the commissioners they must do less, because the report found that the Commission was implementing policies over which it was exceedingly difficult to exert effective control."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, called the "Brussels fiasco" of the last few days "a scandal waiting to happen". But he challenged the Prime Minister: "What urgent steps are you now taking to ensure that following the welcome resignation of [Jacques] Santer today, the Commission is not left leaderless, Europe is not left incapacitated and the essential reforms are not indefinitely delayed?"

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Sport for girls 'not feminine enough'

FORTY PER CENT of girls drop out of sport by the time they are 14 partly because they are self-conscious about their bodies. Research from Loughborough University into girls' attitudes to sport also found that they were put off sport by the media image that it is unfeminine.

A study of 3,000 girls in 52 secondary schools suggests that simple improvements such as curtains in the school showers would help keep girls' enthusiasm for physical education.

Yesterday the Youth Sport Trust announced a new initiative, the Girls in Sport Partnership, to stop teenage girls dropping out of sport.

Dr Sue Campbell, the trust's executive director, said: "We have discovered that girls are increasingly vulnerable to negative body images. Showers and PE kit are real issues for young women. Having to shower in front of 25 other people is very difficult at that stage of development."

Professor David Kirk of

By JUDITH JUDY
Education Editor

Loughborough University, who carried out the research, said that schools had to ensure that girls did sport in a friendly environment. "Girls won't play sport if they are humiliated and told they are no good. If you are feeling sensitive about your body, that is the last thing you want."

His research found that teenage girls' physical esteem was lower than that of boys. It also suggested that girls were less interested in winning than boys and more interested in self-improvement and keeping fit.

Competitive sport with its focus on aggression is often seen as a male preoccupation, Professor Kirk says. He suggests that schools should offer a wider range of sport, including activities such as aerobics and dance, as well as traditional team games such as netball and hockey.

By BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

Hundreds of playgroups at risk despite rescue plan

HUNDREDS OF playgroups face closure, despite a £500,000 government rescue package, pre-school education leaders said yesterday.

They said 1,700 groups - caring for tens of thousands of children under five - were in imminent danger. Total closures could rise to 6,000 by 2002 if ministers failed to take long-term action, said Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-

School Learning Alliance. She said that 1,500 groups had already closed since 1997.

Margaret Hodge, minister in charge of early-years education, yesterday ordered an independent inquiry into the future of playgrounds. She said the reports were "worrying" but disputed the alliance's figures,

saying that only 100 groups closed last year. Mrs Hodge said the £500,000 grant, the second in as many years, would " tide over" playgroups until the new working families tax credit gave parents more money to spend on playgroup fees.

But campaigners said a similar sum last year saved only about 500 groups, leaving another 800 to close. A nursery place is already guaranteed

for every four-year-old whose parents want one, and government plans for further expansion will see places for three-year-olds doubled to 190,000 by 2001. But Mrs Lochrie said that the Government's childcare policy was under threat.

The problem has its origins in the introduction of nursery vouchers, brought in by the Conservatives to pay for nur-

ery places for four-year-olds. Schools, anxious for extra funding, opened their doors to nursery-age children, a trend that has continued under the Labour Government's programme to offer nursery places for all four-year-olds.

Nursery campaigners say that many parents feel forced to send their children to school at four, leaving playgroups with dwindling numbers and little fi-

nancial support. At the Allsorts Pre-School in Weymouth, Dorset, supervisor Denise Pinney said most four-year-olds left to start school in September.

"We will not close, because we will fight to stay open, but a third of our children are leaving a term earlier than they used to. The reason for that is government funding, because schools want to take advantage and get the money. A lot of places

have closed and we're going to have to increase our fees."

Mrs Lochrie welcomed the extra funding, which will help playgroups in immediate danger of closure. A similar grant last year is thought to have saved 500 groups. But she said that long-term funding was needed to maintain the pre-school movement.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Girls who play sport have been shown to benefit physically and in academic concentration, but 40 per cent have dropped out by 14 Action Plus

Surgery gives sight a chance

By DAMIEN BROOK

DOCTORS YESTERDAY performed the first stage of an operation to grow part of a human eye inside a patient's cheek. It is hoped the surgery, which has never been tried in Britain, will restore the sight of 76-year-old Cecil Creed from the Wirral in Merseyside.

During the operation at Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre, surgeons placed two tiny plastic lenses inside Mr Creed's cheek. Over the next six weeks it is hoped his own cells will grow around the lenses before they are removed and one is inserted into his eye.

Mr Creed lost his sight in a chemical accident when he was a child. One eye was damaged beyond repair and he has had three corneal transplants on the other, but they have all failed. "Each time I had a cornea transplant I could see so well for a while," he said.

While there are some risks to the operation, Mr Creed said he has nothing to lose since without the operation he will never see again. "I know this is my last chance," he said.

The lenses used in the new technique, developed in Italy by Dr Stephan Pintucci, are made of plastic with a collar of special fabric, called Dacron, around them.

The fabric, unlike tissue from donors, is inert and Mr Creed's cells will grow onto it while the lens is buried in his cheek. Professor Harminder Dua, who helped perform the surgery, said that once the Dacron is "colonised" with cells it is removed from the host.

"We then bore a hole in the centre of Mr Creed's eye to fit the lens." The collar of Dacron grows into the surrounding eye naturally and is not rejected.

Dr Pintucci was at QMC to demonstrate the operation to Professor Dua, who will carry out future operations. He said: "It is a case of see one, do one, teach one."

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Sikh killing echo of Lawrence case

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE FATAL stabbing of a Sikh waiter after a confrontation in the street with three white men has been identified by anti-racist campaigners as Scotland's equivalent to the Stephen Lawrence murder in London.

Surjit Singh Chhokar was stabbed to death outside his girlfriend's home last November. Only one of the three suspects was tried for murder and was eventually convicted of the lesser charge of assault.

Yesterday, the parents of Stephen Lawrence, a black teenager murdered in a racist attack in south-east London in 1993, were invited to Scotland to heckle the Chhokar Family Justice Campaign.

The Lawrence family's solicitor, Imran Khan, said yesterday: "We have received a communication from campaigners in Glasgow and we have been invited to a news conference about the case on Monday."

During a trial last week at the High Court in Glasgow, a jury heard that Mr Chhokar, 32, from Wishaw, Lanarkshire, was fatally stabbed in an altercation in the street outside girlfriend Liz Bryce's home in Overtown, Lanarkshire, last November.



The Lanarkshire street where Chhokar was killed

Mr Chhokar had two daughters, Amandeep, three, and Honey, 13.

He was separated from his 30-year-old wife, Sandi.

Ronnie Coulter, 30, was acquitted of murdering Mr Chhokar after he lodged a special defence blaming his 17-year-old cousin, Andrew Coulter, and 22-year-old David Montgomery with Mr Chhokar's murderer.

Lord McCluskey, Scotland's longest-serving judge, who presided over the trial, was highly critical that only Coulter

was in the dock. He told the jury: "A man was murdered in a public street by one or more persons who have been discussed in the course of this trial. For reasons that I cannot begin to understand, only one of those persons was placed in the dock."

"I will be taking steps to find out how that decision was reached."

In an unprecedented war of words, Lord Advocate Lord Hardie hit back, calling Lord McCluskey's remarks "ignorant, uninformed and ill-advised".

Lord McCluskey, Scotland's

Family Justice Campaign believes there are similarities to the Stephen Lawrence case and is pressing for the other two suspects to be brought to trial.

A spokesman for the campaigners, Asmer Anwar, said: "If three black men had murdered a white man would the Crown Office have made such a mess of the case and been so insensitive to the family?"

The Crown Office, Scotland's prosecuting authority, said that it would be inappropriate to comment as proceedings were still active and the two other suspects could still be tried.

Strathclyde Police have said they do not believe there was a racist element to the attack.

Meanwhile, the condition of a black teenager who lapsed into a coma after being kicked by a white gang in a racially motivated attack in the West Midlands on Saturday night improved slightly yesterday.

David Virgo, 19, a trainee landscape gardener, has emerged from a coma but was still too unwell yesterday to be interviewed by police.

He was punched and kicked unconscious after leaving a pub disco in Blackheath, near Dudley. Witnesses told police that Mr Virgo was subjected to racial abuse and his head was "kicked like a football".



Surjit Singh Chhokar, with his estranged wife, Sandi. The Chhokar Family Justice Campaign believes his murderer was racially motivated. Strathclyde Police do not

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Police officers sue over Dunblane

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Two women police constables who claim they received just one hour of counselling following the Dunblane massacre are suing their force for £800,000, it emerged yesterday.

It was also disclosed that about £3m in damages had already been paid in compensation to 139 people who had been affected by the tragedy.

The two women, one of whom has retired on medical grounds while the other is off on long-term sick leave, say that they suffered psychological problems as a result of the 1996 killings, in which 16 children and their teacher were shot dead by Thomas Hamilton in the small Scottish town.

The women, aged 26 and 30, of Central Scotland Police, say that they were sent to Dunblane school shortly after Hamilton struck. One of them guarded the school gate, meeting distressed parents. Both women eventually went into the gym, where the dead and injured were lying, and were later involved in assisting families of the children.

The officers, who have not been named, are each suing for £400,000, claiming that the force failed to provide them with adequate counselling to help them overcome the trauma that they suffered. Proceedings have

been commenced against Chief Constable William Wilson. It is alleged that Mr Wilson was negligent in not providing a critical incident stress debriefing.

The solicitor representing the two officers, Ian Watson, said: "We take the view that the stress counselling received by both officers was totally inadequate."

He added that he feared both their careers could be ruined by the psychological effects of the trauma.

The case is believed to be the first action by a police officer against his or her force in relation to Dunblane.

In December, the House of Lords ruled that four police officers who had suffered severe mental trauma as a result of treating dying fans on the pitch at the 1989 Hillsborough football disaster were not entitled to compensation.

In a majority decision, the Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision in 1996 that the officers should receive damages after being exposed by the admitted negligence of South Yorkshire Police, to "excessively horrific events such as were likely to cause psychiatric illness even in a police officer".

Yesterday's legal action fol-

lows a row earlier in the week about the level of compensation paid to the Dunblane victims' families.

Christine McSkimming, the grandmother and legal guardian of a schoolgirl who was shot twice in the incident, described a £4,500 pay-out she had received from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority as a "slap in the face".

Her granddaughter, Albie Adam, now eight, suffered a damaged sciatic nerve and a shattered foot.

The authority has dealt with 203 applications for compensation so far, rejecting 64 and paying out about £3m to 139 claimants. A further 111 cases have yet to be dealt with.

A spokesman for Victim Support Scotland said that the needs of the injured and the victim's families should be addressed before those of professionals who had served at the scene of the massacre.

"In a sense, the issue is that they [the two WPCs] can do whatever they want and can sue whomever they want," he said.

"But if they were to get that money, we would perceive that as being a little unfair. I am aware that there is a certain amount of disquiet at the levels of those awards in the Dunblane community."

Pinochet ruling due next week

BY KIM SENGUPTA

The long-awaited ruling by the Law Lords on whether former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet should face extradition to Spain on charges of human rights abuse will be delivered next Wednesday.

The decision by the seven Law Lords comes after weeks of deliberation and in the wake of a protest by the Chilean government over the length of time being taken while General Pinochet remains under house arrest in the UK.

If the Lords rule that, as a former head of state, he is immune from arrest and prosecution he will almost certainly fly back to Santiago at the earliest opportunity, and the legal costs of the proceedings will come from public funds.

A decision that the general is not immune will start the process of extradition, with his lawyers likely to make use of their right of appeal on several stages of the proceedings.

This is the second hearing over the issue. The first one, which ruled that the former dictator is not immune, was set

Colour is a matter of words

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

WHEN IT comes to colourful language, members of the Berinmo tribe have a strange way with words.

The hunter-gatherers from the upper reaches of the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea do not distinguish between blue and green but their language contains a sharp contrast between two hues of yellow "nol" and "wol" not found in English.

Scientists from Goldsmiths College in London, compared the way the Berinmo perceived colours compared to a sample group of English speakers. The Berinmo were better able to pick a colour from a choice of hues around the "nol-wol" boundary than around the blue-green boundary. A comparison group of English speakers showed the reverse tendency.

Writing in the journal *Nature* yesterday the scientists said: "Our results from these experiments are consistent with there being a considerable degree of linguistic influence on colour categorisation."

Passport Agency in security blunder

THE PASSPORT Agency was forced to make an embarrassing U-turn last night after being accused of relaxing security checks on passport applications to reduce a huge backlog.

A leaked memo reveals that officials were issued with a list of checks which were no longer to be carried out, in order to speed up the processing of applications. The decision prompted fears among immigration officials that it would lead to an increase in the number of forgeries being obtained by criminal gangs.

Last night, the Home Office said that the Passport Agency had reviewed its position and agreed the new system could be "misinterpreted as a relaxation of agency security".

It said the new measures were being withdrawn with immediate effect.

The backlog in the applications occurred after the installation of a new computer system at the agency's offices in Liverpool and Newport, south Wales. The system, which followed a public-private partnership contract with Siemens Business Services, was intended to meet targets of 30,000 passports a week but the current output is only 23,000.

In the memo sent to regional managers last month, the Passport Agency's operations director, Kevin Sheehan, said eight security shortcuts should be "immediately" implemented because of "reduced output" following the introduction of a new computer system. The shortcuts, which related to the manual security checks carried out by agency officials, includ-

ed the acceptance of applications accompanied by only photocopies of marriage certificates. Mr Sheehan also advised that any counter-signatures who omitted to say how long they have known the applicant "should be given the benefit of the doubt".

The memo, reported tomorrow in *Computer Weekly* magazine, stated that "the widest interpretation" should be given to counter-signatures in deciding their status.

Photographs that were not accompanied by the correct wording from a counter-signature should still be accepted. Mr Sheehan said the new system was designed to "attempt to increase output" but should only apply to cases where "there is no significant doubt about the identity of the applicant".

In response to the memo, George Ryan, the manager at Liverpool, the Passport Agency's largest office, said the measures would "increase the risk of fraudulent passports slipping through the system".

John Tincey, of the Immigration Service Union, said relaxed security checks would quickly be exploited by those involved in illegal immigration scams and other criminal activity. He was particularly concerned about the agency's willingness to accept photocopied identity documents.

"Photocopied documents have no value whatsoever. With the quality of photocopying equipment available, it is so easy to produce forgeries."

BY IAN BURRELL

Home Affairs Correspondent

ITV'S APPARENTLY insatiable desire to dominate peak-time viewing into the new millennium was further underlined yesterday with the launch of a £190m spring and summer schedule that features 14 new drama series and the United Kingdom premiere of the most recent James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies* as the culmination of a complete run of every James Bond film.

The ratings-driven schedule unveiled in London provided the first long-term indication of how the network intends to exploit the audience potential opened up by shifting its main news bulletin - *News at Ten* - out of peak time to 6.30pm.

For lovers of Seventies children's programmes, the schedule's most important move was to herald the return of a £190m spring and summer schedule that features 14 new drama series and the United Kingdom premiere of the most recent James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies* as the culmination of a complete run of every James Bond film.

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THE TOP SUPERMARKETS: WHO IS SELLING WHAT									
TESCO	SAFeway	ASDA	SAFEWAY	SOMERFIELD	KWIKSAVE	MARKS & SPENCER	WILLIAM MORRISON	WAITROSE	ICELAND
Own brands with GM ingredients	J SAINSBURY	ASDA	SAFEWAY	SOMERFIELD	(merged last year)	M&S	WILLIAM MORRISON	WAITROSE	ICELAND
150 out of 20,000	40-50 out of 1,500	39 out of 4,000	150 out of 9,000	150 out of 4,000 (Som) and 400 (KS)	100 out of 3,000	Not able to say	4 out of 8,127	0 out of 900	
Black bean sauce, vegetable soup, chicken and veg pie	Tomato puree, chicken and ham paté, dog food	Chicken tikka sandwich, cream scones, chilli con carne	Chicken Kiev cheese and tomato pizza, potato wedges	Sausage rolls, leek and potato soup, liver sausage	Turkey and coleslaw sandwich, pancakes, Chinese takeaway box	Chicken burgers, Hollandaise sauce, Yorkshire pudding mix	Japanese soy sauce, Teriyaki, crispy crunch cake		Not applicable
No plans to eliminate GM ingredients	Own brands GM free by end of summer	GM free within the next three months	Gradually phasing out GM ingredients	Asking suppliers wherever possible to use non-GM ingredients. Otherwise label clearly	GM-free in three months time	Customers have told us they feel GM food is being phased through too quickly and they are uncomfortable with it	Examining feasibility of replacing products	GM-free by end of March	Own brands GM-free since May 1 1998
'Customers have told us they want honesty and clear labelling and that's where we're concentrating our efforts'	'We are giving shoppers what they want'	'We've got an open mind on GM products, but our customers are concerned and we listen to our customers'	'We feel GM soya and maize fail to offer any tangible benefits to our customers'	'It's consumer choice. Our first priority is to our customers, and they expect to see it'		'We are aware that some customers may have reservations about genetic modification'	'It's customer preference'		'The scientific effects of GM food are unknown and scientific opinion is divided'
Not known how many	Unable to say	Not known	Total not known	Not known how many	None, all food they sell is own brand	Not able to say	Not known how many		Total unknown
No policy	Up to the brands	Brands expected to label GM products	Brands to comply with Govt policy	Expect brands to comply with the law on labelling	Not applicable	Company owning the brand is responsible	Want full information on all products		Labelling helps, but prefer non-GM
Market leader now left chasing the field	Delighted at policy change	Walking in the right direction	Pleased at turnaround	If it's customers top priority, they must go GM-free quicker	Very pleased with change of heart	Lagging behind and need to catch up	Excellent		The market leader set the pace for GM-free shopping

Tesco isolated over policy on GM foods

THE GOVERNMENT'S most senior scientific adviser on genetically modified foods warned yesterday that there could be a world food disaster if the products did not exist.

Professor Janet Bainbridge, chair of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, told MPs that the public needed GM foods and a moratorium on their release would achieve nothing.

By PAUL WAUGH
AND MICHAEL McCARTHY

In evidence to the Commons Science and Technology Committee, Prof Bainbridge also said that debate over GM foods had "been and gone".

"Imposition of a ban on the cultivation or sale of GM foods would achieve nothing except jeopardise the competitiveness of UK industry," she said.

Her comments were echoed by the Government's chief ad-

visor on GM crops, who told MPs that his committee should stick to science and leave ethics to Parliament.

Professor John Beringer, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, said that it was becoming indefensible to regulate crops purely because they were genetically modified.

"The Americans are not stupid, and we should... examine

why there is such a different attitude to GMOs on this side of the Atlantic," he said.

"At worst I believe that GM crops will only add to existing problems of intensification in agriculture and at best they will greatly enhance our ability to solve problems."

Although nine of the 10 biggest supermarkets are looking into the possibility of replacing GM products, Tesco

does not plan to replace the 150 of its 20,000 own-label products which contain genetically modified soya and maize.

The company, which has more than 15 per cent of the £90bn UK grocery market, says that its customers want honesty and clear product labelling.

A Tesco spokesman explained: "To go completely GM-free is a very significant move and we don't want to give our

customers false hopes."

Safeway, the fourth biggest supermarket, is gradually phasing out GM ingredients. It said yesterday: "Safeway's position on GM soya and maize is that they fail to offer any tangible benefits to our customers."

This frank statement raised eyebrows as next month Safeway's public affairs manager, Tony Coombes, will become di-

rector of public affairs at Monsanto, the world's biggest pro-

motor of GM food.

Prof Beringer claimed that his committee's secretariat was far too small, with just nine staff to cover all UK and international regulations.

He also warned that poor

publicity for the committee, together with a failure to pay its members, had made it difficult to attract top-grade scientists.

Stone Age people modified crops

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

ONE OF the earliest experiments in genetic engineering took place about 7,500 years ago and resulted in the first corn on the cob. Scientists have re-traced steps taken by Stone Age farmers who created the first maize crop from a Mexican wild grass using a sophisticated process of genetic selection.

A study into the genetic ancestry of the maize plant found it is derived from a non-descript species of wild grass which grows in Mexico. The researchers have found how Neolithic farmers in North America selected specific strains of the wild grass which eventually resulted in a plant that produced a tightly knotted clump of nutritious seeds on a cob. The study found the farmers were unwittingly modifying a genetic control region in the grass which caused long tassels of its seeds to shorten into edible ears that could be harvested more easily.

John Doebley, who led the research team at the University of Minnesota, said the study confirmed how the maize plant, which does not exist naturally,

centuries or millennia were necessary for early farmers to achieve the changes that made maize a mainstay of farming," Dr Paabo said.

"Of all human inventions, none has had a more profound effect on our history — and on our biosphere as a whole — than agriculture... This momentous development relied on the genetic manipulation of only a handful of plants by early farmers."

Wild Mexican grass looks so different from domesticated maize that their close relationship could only be confirmed by the genetic analysis that showed how the long tassels became short ears.

"This study is fascinating to me because it provides the first glimpse of what went on during one of the earliest genetic-engineering experiments," Dr Paabo said.

The genetic techniques used in the study could also be used to dissect the modification that took place to create other domestic plants and animals, including cats and dogs, he added.

Greeks lose right to claim Feta as theirs

BY KATHY MARKS
Food Writer

FETA HAS gone the way of Yorkshire pudding and Eccles cakes. No longer may Greece claim a monopoly over the crumbly white cheese, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The court overturned a decision of the European Commission that had given protection to Feta as an exclusively Greek product.

Other countries that made the cheese, such as Denmark, Germany and France, had been prevented from marketing it under that name.

The Luxembourg court ruled that the Brussels Commission had unjustly prevented other member states from calling their own produce "Feta".

The court said that although some product names that made geographical reference were protected by European Union law as "designations of origin", Feta was a long-established generic term that could no longer be claimed solely by its place of birth.

Europe has already withdrawn from special protection the names of a range of national and regional specialities. Cheddar cheese made outside the West Country may now be sold as "Cheddar", and "Eccles" cakes may now come from outside Greater Manchester.

But the names of other products, including Cornish clotted cream and Stilton cheese, have

containers or skin bags, and left in a cool place to ripen.

In 1996, at the request of Greece, the Commission conducted a Europe-wide survey on the manufacture and consumption of Feta cheese, and consulted a scientific committee on names of origin.

The Commission concluded that "Feta" had not become the common name of a product and that it "continues to evoke a Greek origin". The cheese was placed on a register of names known as "protected designation of origin".

Cheese makers in Denmark, Germany and France, forced to label their produce "white cheese", challenged the decision, arguing that their cheeses had been marketed as Feta since 1963, 1981 and 1985 respectively.

The judges yesterday agreed, saying that the Commission had "unjustly minimised the importance to be attached to the situation".

They said: "To decide whether a name has become generic, the situation existing in the member state in which the name originates, and in areas of consumption, together with relevant national or community legislation, must all be taken into account."

The Commission should, in particular, have taken account of the existence of products legally on the market."



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WHO OWNS FOOD?

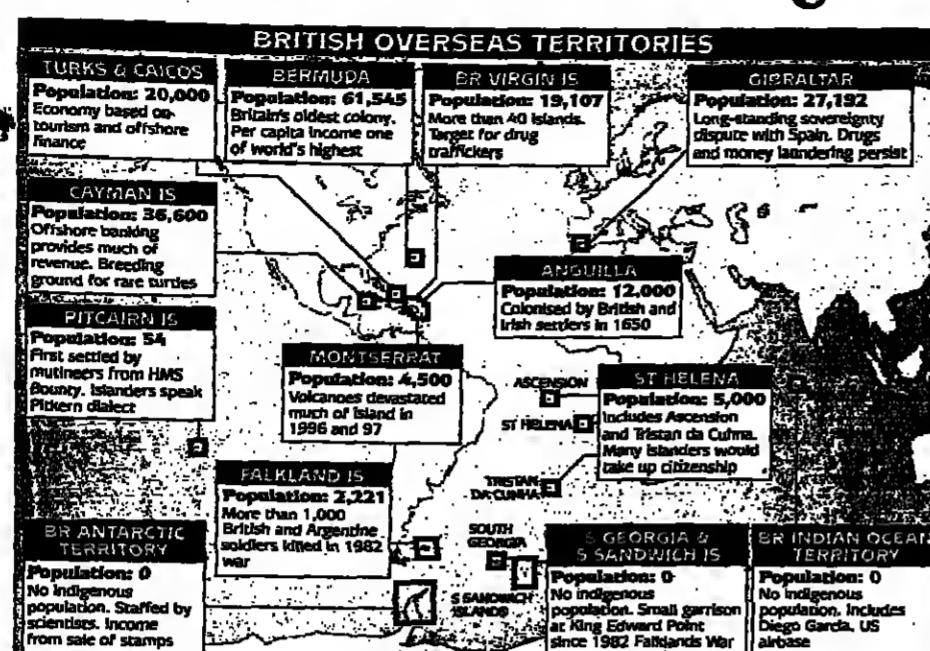
Products that can be made outside their place of origin:

Yorkshire pudding
Eccles cakes
Cheddar cheese
Feta cheese
Edam and Gouda

Products that have been given geographic protection:

Scottish beef
Stilton cheese
Jersey Royal potatoes
Newcastle Brown Ale
French champagne
Provence lavender oil
Italian Parma ham

Welcome to Britain. But Cayman islanders say it's better at home



M foods.

British people are still able to move to the world's biggest market of all, the United States. It said foreign's prosperity and relative ease of entry is that for any language barriers.

Statement of national interest month. National Insurance, Health Care, Welfare, etc.

e people crops

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

"MOVE TO England?" laughed Marcie Chittenden, almost scornfully. "Why would anyone want to leave the Cayman Islands? It's beautiful here."

Mrs Chittenden has a good point. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday that residents of Britain's Overseas Territories are to be granted citizenship. As a result, the 150,000 people living in the last remnants of the empire can move to Britain and travel freely in the European Community. But as Mrs Chittenden explained so succinctly, the vast majority of Britain's overseas residents would not dream of moving.

"When I was a little girl, a lot of the men were seafarers," said Mrs Chittenden, 54, secretary of the Church of God in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, the largest of the three islands which make up the territory. "They would go all over the world and see all sorts, but when they came back they would say to me: 'There is no place like Cayman'."

The offer of citizenship does not come without a price. An-

tonyesterday, Mr Cook said Britain's 13 Overseas Territories (formerly the Dependent Territories) would have to modernise their human rights legislation.

Homosexuality is a crime in the five Caribbean territories - Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Montserrat, the Caymans and the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) - although residents say it is enforced rarely.

But it is not simply the lifestyle that appeals. The Caymans, a large-scale centre of offshore finance, also enjoy a standard of living well above Britain's. Per capita, islanders have a GDP of around £20,000 compared to £14,500 in Britain.

"Britain is great - the education I have had has been great, but I don't think that I

would want to live here permanently," said Paul Byres, 32, of Georgetown, who is studying for a PhD in economics at the University of Surrey in Guildford. "There might be some people who would prefer the big-city lifestyle but I don't think there will be lots of people rushing to move."

"The homosexuality law will be a big issue," Mrs Chittenden said. "What people do in the privacy of their own homes is not really an issue but they will not be wanting to condone an ungodly lifestyle."

Perhaps of even greater concern will be the requirement that the territories bring in new regulations for their burgeoning financial services industries. The White Paper notes that many of the systems are potential targets for money launderers and drug traffickers.

"Some Overseas Territories do not yet fully meet international standards," Mr Cook told the Commons yesterday. "The globalisation of international finance means that we cannot tolerate a weak link anywhere in the chain."

The governor of the BVI, Frank Savage, said yesterday he believed people were concerned that extra regulation could deter investors.

Some territory citizens may be keener than others to take up the offer of moving to Britain. While most residents of Bermuda are unlikely to be interested, up to 5,500 poverty-stricken residents of St Helena have long been campaigning for rights of citizenship.

Residents of Montserrat, devastated by volcanoes in 1995 and twice in 1997, may also be ready to leave.

But one thing Mr Cook made clear yesterday was that the arrangement was, sadly, not reciprocal: anyone fed up with life in Britain does not have the automatic right to up and move to warmer climates.

Leading article, Review, page three



Few residents of the Cayman Islands are expected to take up the Foreign Secretary's offer

Colorific

Richest union boss has pay cut

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

GORDON TAYLOR, the highly paid head of the footballers' union, has taken a pay cut of £1,000 a week despite rocketing wages among his millionaire members.

However, Mr Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), is still some distance from the headline on a package worth £370,000 a year according to figures from the Government's certification officer. Mr Taylor's earnings are partly linked with television rights, which seemed to suffer a temporary blip.

The PFA chief will look with some envy at Alan Shearer of Newcastle United, who is in the middle of negotiating his £30,000 a week up to a reputed £40,000, and David Beckham, of Manchester United, who last August signed a deal said to be worth £7m over five years.

Less favoured players in the Premiership still make around £4,000 a week.

According to the certification officer's annual report, Mr Taylor is still the highest paid union leader. In second place is Dr Ernest Armstrong, of the British Medical Association, on £118,310. Third is Paul Snowball, of the banking union UNIF, on £104,133; fourth Christine Hancock, of the Royal College of Nursing, on £99,500; and fifth Peter Smith, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, on £95,000.

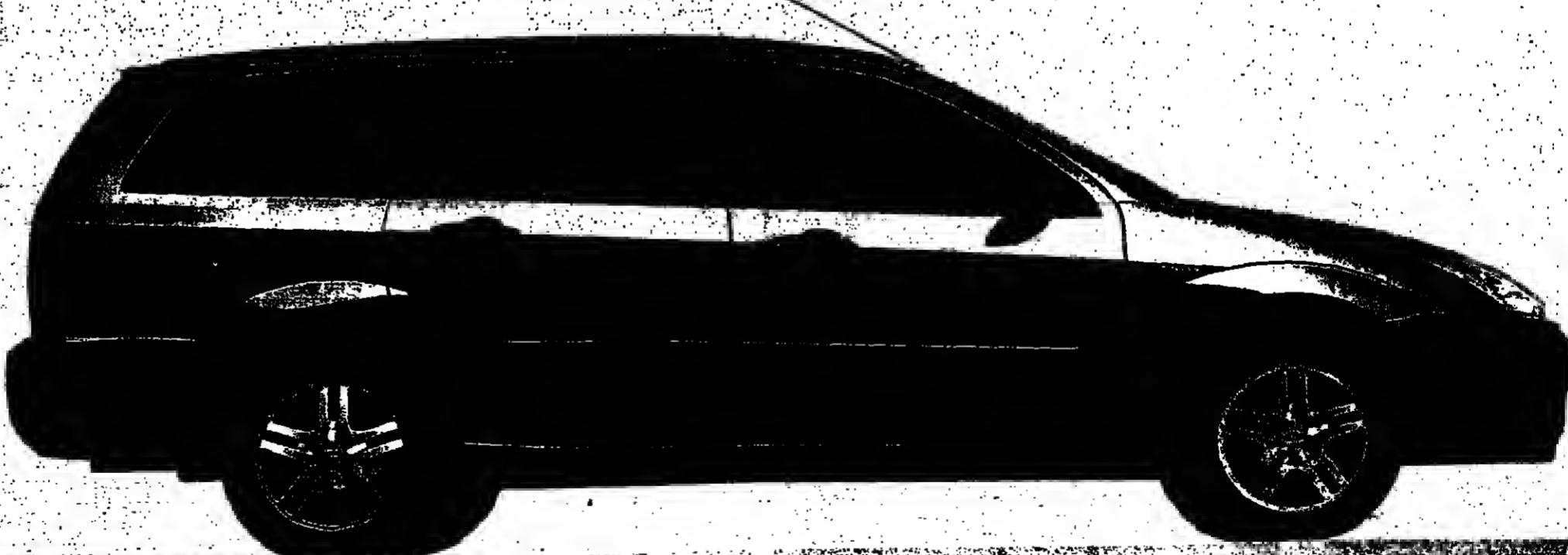
Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the public services union Unison and champion of low-paid workers, received a package last year worth nearly £34,000.

Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, has a package worth £70,700, to lead a membership estimated at fewer than 6,000.

The lowest-paid officer is at the Scottish Union of Power Loom Technicians, with an honorarium of £100.

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Solved: Mystery of crocodile that feasted on dinosaurs



Deinosuchus grew slowly but lived for at least 50 years

SCIENTISTS HAVE solved the mystery of a giant prehistoric crocodile which was so big that it could make a meal of a dinosaur.

Deinosuchus was five times the size of the biggest crocodiles alive today and researchers have now discovered why - it lived far longer than its present-day cousins.

Unlike the dinosaurs, which became giants by putting on

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

weight quickly, Deinosuchus grew slowly and became gigantic simply by continuing to get bigger while living to a relatively great age.

"How Deinosuchus attained sizes to rival its dinosaurian contemporaries, on which it undoubtedly preyed, has remained a mystery," say

Gregory Erickson and Christopher Brochu, of Stanford University in California and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, in the journal *Nature*.

The scientists studied the growth rings of Deinosuchus bones and found that the reptiles must have lived for at least 50 years, about 20 years more than living crocodiles, and considerably longer than the di-

nosaurs alive at the time. This suggests that the ancient crocodile grew slowly and steadily, like the modern-day cold-blooded reptiles crocodiles, rather than in spurts which is the pattern seen in today's warm-blooded animals.

Fossil specimens of Deinosuchus excavated in Montana and Texas indicate that it grew up to 32 feet long and had huge jaws which were

capable of gripping animals as big as a rhinoceros.

"We're almost certain they fed occasionally on dinosaurs but there is also evidence that they ate large turtles because of puncture holes found in [turtle] shells which match the teeth of Deinosuchus," Dr Erickson said.

Dinosaurs' bones show that they went through a rapid period of growth in early life while

serbs
kosov

Vicar loses fight to keep his flock

A CONTROVERSIAL Anglican vicar yesterday lost a landmark legal case over a decision by his bishop to make a drastic cut in the size of his parish.

The Rev Ashley Cheesman, 46, broke down as he was told by three members of the Privy Council in Downing Street that they were upholding the Bishop of Leicester's decision to more than halve his 800-member parish in Gaulby.

The Manufacturing Science and Finance Union (MSF), which had supported Mr Cheesman, condemned the decision as an abuse of power by the Church of England that would enable it to remove any vicar without consulting either clergy or parishioners.

The judgment follows an acrimonious dispute between Mr Cheesman, a father of two, and his former bishop, the Right Rev Thomas Butler, who was recently made Bishop of Southwark. The pair clashed over deteriorating relations between Mr Cheesman and a number of his parishioners.

Mr Cheesman had said he was being ousted because of his unorthodox evangelical preaching. His new parish of just 300 people would dramatically cut

BY CAHAL MILMO

his income by reducing his earnings from funerals, christenings and weddings, he had said.

MSF general secretary Roger Lyons said: "The church abandoned attempts to reach a settlement with Mr Cheesman and used an administrative measure to effectively starve him out."

His new parish will not provide a sufficient income for a man with a wife and two children.

"This ruling means that the feudal system imposed on clergy has been formally upheld and they have no protection from unfair treatment by their employer. Every Church of England vicar should now be looking over his shoulder in the light of what has happened today."

Mr Lyons said Mr Cheesman was now "inconsolable".

The nine-month legal battle began after the Diocese of Leicester invoked the Church of England 1983 Pastoral Measures to reduce Mr Cheesman's seven-church rural parish.

The vicar, with the backing of the MSF's 1,500-member clergy section, appealed to the Privy Council, the highest court for ecclesiastical disputes.

In a split ruling by the Privy

Council's three-member panel - consisting of Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Sir Christopher Slade - it was decided that the church authorities had acted responsibly.

The chairman, Lord Lloyd, found in favour of Mr Cheesman but the other two found that the clergyman had no case under church rules.

Union officials argued that the judgement contradicted the Government's Employment Relations Bill currently going through Parliament, which contains a clause which gives clerical full employment rights.

Under current church rules, bishops have been able to argue that clergy are employed by God and are paid a stipend to allow them to carry out their pastoral work.

Mr Cheesman, who effectively holds a lifelong legal freehold to his parish although the church can now dictate its size, receives a stipend of £15,000 with extra income coming from fees for special occasion services.

His dispute with a group of parishioners started in 1994 when they objected to his evangelical preaching style and began to hold prayer and hymn

sessions in the churches without him. To try to halt the impromptu ceremonies, the vicar resorted to locking up the organ in one church.

Acrimony increased when Mr Cheesman invoked ancient church protocol allowing him to appoint church wardens. He

made his mother church warden at one of his churches - even though she lived 100 miles away in Suffolk.

An earlier attempt to remove the vicar by Bishop Butler, who has been replaced as Bishop of Leicester by the Right Rev Timothy Stevens, using

the 1977 Incumbent Vacation of Benefices Measure, ended because the church could not afford the £250,000 legal bill.

The Diocese of Leicester yesterday said it now hoped Mr Cheesman and his discontent former parishioners would be able to live side by side.

In a statement it said: "We believe this scheme will result in better arrangements for the cure of souls in the parishes involved. The strongly held and differing views of local church people have now been fully aired and considered through every process available. We

hope that all parties concerned will work towards making a success of the new arrangements."

The diocese said the new parish had been created to allow Mr Cheesman to continue his ministry.

Mr Cheesman was unavailable for comment yesterday.

The Rev Ashley Cheesman (top) clashed with former Bishop of Leicester, the Right Rev Thomas Butler, after complaints from parishioners about his evangelical preaching style at St Peter's Church in Gaulby, Leicestershire (above)

Daniel Kennedy

Suharto family protests after UK refuses visas

THE FAMILY of Suharto, the former Indonesian president, has lodged a formal protest after several of its members were banned from entering Britain after an investigation was launched into the source of their wealth.

"This is so shameful that it is unbelievable," said Probosutejo, half-brother of Mr Suharto, who has written to the British embassy in Jakarta demanding an explanation for its refusal to grant visas to his wife and children. "For decades I've been going to Britain and I've always had a multiple-entry visa. Why am I suspected now?"

What is the reason? Is there any proof that I've done anything wrong or that I've stolen from Indonesia? There is none," he said yesterday.

Like several of the former

president's children and close

relations, Mr Probosutejo be-

came a multi-millionaire

multiple re-entry visa to Mr Suharto's eldest daughter, known as Tutut. But after Mr Suharto's resignation later that month it changed its policy. Whitehall sources say several members of the extended family have been refused visas.

Mr Probosutejo was also a frequent visitor to London and owned a large house in Putney.

It has been put on the market, although Mr Probosutejo said yesterday that he had changed his mind about selling it. "At one point I wanted to sell it, because my children finished their education but now I found out how much it is worth I'm not selling it." He paid £90,000 for it in 1976 and it has been put on the market for £61,400.

Yesterday a spokesman for the British Embassy in Jakarta said that its policy was not to discuss individual immigration cases.



Suharto: Activists want his family's assets seized

British companies sought them out as business partners and "consultants". Mr Suharto's son Sigit was involved in joint ventures with Thames Water and BP.

As recently as last May the Jakarta consulate granted a

Body lay in home for three weeks

A WOMAN OF 78 lay dead for up to three weeks at the home she shared with her family with the words "Help Me" scrawled on the walls of her bedroom, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mary Stansbie's relatives believed that she was asleep - and said they were used to her taking to her room for up to two months at a time. Mrs Stansbie, who suffered from dementia, died from a blood clot, triggered by the fact she had not moved for at least 10 days. She was discovered by a district nurse at her home in Smethwick, West Midlands, on 18 December 1997.

Mrs Stansbie's daughter, Mary Widdows, told yesterday's hearing in Smethwick Council House that she checked on her mother a week before she was certified dead, and believed that she was

BY DAMIEN PEARSE

sleeping. She said she did not suspect there was anything wrong as her mother often took to her room for six to eight weeks at a stretch.

Maureen Capewell, a district nurse, told the inquest that she called at the house to visit Mrs Stansbie, who lived with her daughter and two granddaughters, and found her dead in bed. The words "Help me" and "No Help" were written on the walls she added.

Pathologist Dr Kenneth Scott told the hearing that Mrs Stansbie's death occurred no fewer than 10 days, and possibly as long as three weeks, before her body was found.

Sandwell South coroner Peter Turner recorded an open verdict.

DNA gives clue to 15-year-old killing

DETECTIVES investigating the killing of a beauty consultant who was found dead in her bath 15 years ago have begun DNA testing on up to 300 people, after a breakthrough in forensic technology gave them a profile of their "prime suspect".

The cause of death for Cynthia Bolshaw, 50, was given as asphyxia. Among the people the police want to trace in connection with the case are more than 200 men named in her diaries. Evidence taken 9 October 1983 from the bungalow in Heswall, Wirral, where her body was found, has lain in a laboratory since then. But detectives hope that a recently recovered DNA profile may provide a major breakthrough in their hunt for the killer.

Meticulously kept diaries and address books containing

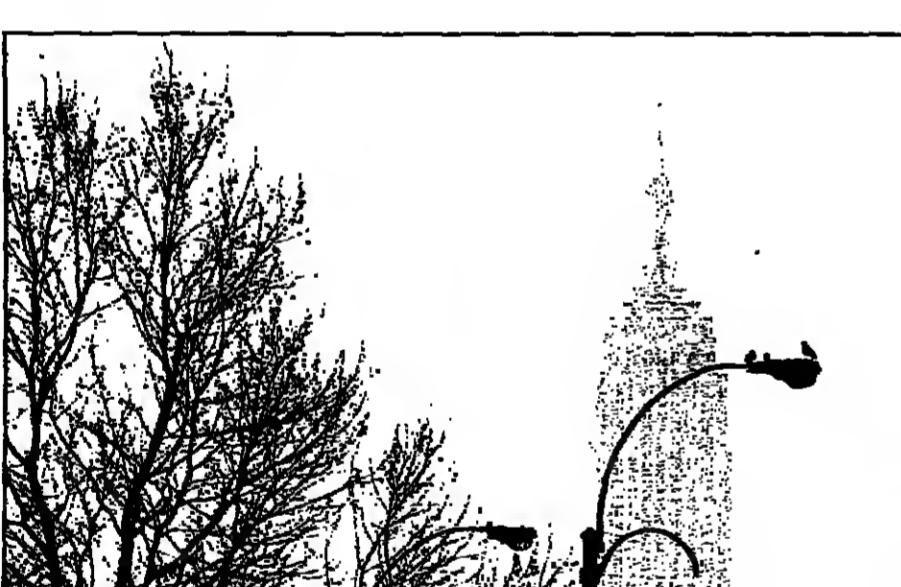
BY MARIA BRESLIN

details of more than 200 men were recovered from the house, but extensive interviews with former boyfriends failed to yield any clues.

Evidence showed that Mrs Bolshaw, who was divorced and a Christian Dior cosmetics adviser, drank sherry and brandy with a companion shortly before her death.

Superintendent Dave Smith, of Merseyside police, yesterday told a news conference at his force's headquarters that the DNA profile was a "significant" find. "Obviously it is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle and the more pieces we put together, the more we can eliminate. As we eliminate people we should be able to get closer and closer to the killer."

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Joe M. 150

Finally, the Eurocrats accept reality

IT TOOK MORE than 36 hours after the drama of the European Commission's mass resignation for the full meaning of the word "resign" to fully sink in on the top floors of the Breydel building, the Commission's headquarters in Brussels.

To the amazement of some of her colleagues, the private office of Edith Cresson, the shamed French commissioner at the centre of the crisis, was still behaving as if nothing had happened. On Tuesday evening they circulated the detail of new proposals relating to her research and education portfolio. Under normal circumstances the plans were to have been considered by the Commission at its regular weekly meeting yesterday.

"I could not believe my eyes" said a member of another commission's entourage. "It was as if they were still in denial".

By lunchtime yesterday Mr Santer and most members of his team had finally accepted the new reality. In contrast to the previous day's indignant press conference where he stated the sleaze inquiry team's

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

findings, Mr Santer did not speak to the press at all yesterday. In fact he appeared to have been muzzled by his colleagues. Karel Van Miert the commissioner for competition policy flanked by Sweden's Anita Gradin and Italy's Mario Monti emerged instead.

Taking firm charge of the situation Mr Van Miert, a popular, no-nonsense Belgian with a strong political reputation, told a press conference there was no question of it being business as usual. The planned publication of a major white paper on overhauling EU competition law was one of the first casualties of the resignations, he said. It would be shelved.

He said the Commission would discharge its legal obligations: opening or closing state aid inquiries or organising tenders for grain and sugar exports, one of the Commission's more arcane duties under the Common Agricultural Policy. It would also give "a helping hand" to EU governments and the European Parliament to reach agreements on reforming the Union's finances and the CAP, but no new initiatives which might be deemed political in character would be tabled. "We must not give the impression we are sulking" Mr Van Miert said. "Even if the Commission has resigned we cannot block the work of the European Union".

Mr Van Miert was one of those who also moved to distance himself from the tainted Jacques Santer, pointing out that it was "totally unfair" to tar everyone with the same brush.

Earlier, as they arrived for their regular weekly meeting, the twenty commissioners were again besieged by a scrum of reporters and TV crews. "No it is not business as usual," Neil Kinnock told them. "It can't be. We resigned on Monday night".

Bizarrely what smacked of bolting the stable door after the horse had bolted, the commissioners did discuss and approve new proposals for tackling fraud.

Announcing the measures



Edith Cresson and Joao de Deus Pinheiro at the commissioners' weekly meeting, which went ahead as usual in Brussels yesterday AP

Mr Monti, the commissioner for the single market, allowed himself a small smile. "I think you might find this a little ... relevant," he said.

Even more bizarre was the spectacle of the flamboyant

Irish commissioner Padraig Flynn throwing a party on the eighth floor of the building.

Not one to be put off by the atmosphere of mourning all around him Mr Flynn invited staff and fellow commissioners

to a feast of Guinness, Irish Coffee and smoked salmon in celebration of St Patrick's Day. Mr Flynn entertained his guests with a rendition of "The West's Awake" a ballad about English oppression in Ireland. Sir Leon Brittan, who is being tipped by

in the fraud report but is unlikely to be reappointed to the Commission by Dublin because of separate allegations relating to a £50,000 gift from a builder when he was an Irish government minister some years ago.

Mr Flynn was not mentioned

in the fraud report but is unlikely to be reappointed to the Commission by Dublin because of separate allegations relating to a £50,000 gift from a builder when he was an Irish government minister some years ago.

Why no one wants strong leadership in Brussels

YESTERDAY THE phrases tripped off the tongues of almost every EU leader: "Time for strong, proven leadership... root-and-branch reform... appointments on the basis of merit... a Europe accountable to the people." But do the heads of Europe's national governments really want what they say they want?

The clamour surrounding

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

the resignation of the Brussels Commission has obscured an essential truth. Contrary to impressions, the demise of the president, Jacques Santer, was not nemesis visited upon an over-mighty supranational executive which was steadily usurping more power from member states. Over the last decade and a half, in a process that began under the venerated Jacques Delors, power has shifted from Brussels back towards the national governments. More clearly than ever, the dominant institution within the EU is not the Commission but the Council of Ministers. Mr Santer was a weak president - precisely what the national gov-

ernments wanted in 1994 when they chose him as a compromise candidate.

This week's upheavals have been presented as a victory for the more open and transparent political culture of the northern member states over the laxer, more clique-ridden ways of the South; or at a grossly oversimplified level, of the Protestant over the Catholic way of doing things. But such a victory could have unintended consequences, above all for Britain.

A stronger, more streamlined and credible EU executive would be the last thing any sensible Eurosceptic would want, depriving him of his easiest and most rewarding target. But governments too, for all their rhetoric, may get more than they bargained for.

For them, the ideal is a squeaky clean and uncontroversial - but above all submissive - Brussels. But a more accountable Commission, with higher quality personnel and greater public scrutiny (either via a permanent independent auditing board or an invigorated European Parliament in Strasbourg) is likely to mean a more confident and therefore

powerful commission. Like it or not, governments may find the pendulum swinging back in the opposite direction.

And one quiet revolution could lead to another. The top posts in Europe have generally gone to superannuated domestic politicians or ones who no longer fit into their own national systems. They are nominated by national governments who give the president virtually no say in the matter.

But a Commission chief of real standing, with the right to choose his own people, could attract younger politicians to the EU. If so, Brussels could become an integral part of a national political career, rather than a belated appendage. That too might be not exactly as member governments intend.

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Leading Israeli guilty of fraud

THE LEADER of Israel's third largest party was found guilty of corruption and misuse of government funds yesterday, as his supporters sobbed and shouted angrily outside the court.

Aryeh Deri, once the rising star of Israeli politics and still an important power broker, was found guilty of receiving \$167,000 in bribes and diverting funds to favoured institutions when he was interior minister in the late Eighties. Throughout his five-year trial he has remained head of Shas, the

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

ultra-Orthodox party backed mainly by Jews of Middle Eastern and North African origin.

His supporters immediately accused the court of bias against the Sephardim (Middle Eastern Jews) and said Mr Deri would remain head of Shas.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime minister, who needs the support of Shas in the election on 17 May, asked for calm in the face of threatened street

demonstrations. Mr Deri is to appeal.

The verdict is likely to deepen the chasm between Sephardi and Ashkenazi (European) Jews in Israel, with the former

feeling that they are being unfairly treated by the elite. His supporters argued yesterday that if Mr Deri had taken any money it was to benefit those who needed it. A banner outside

the court read: "Kicking the Sephardi Ashkenazi style."

Mr Deri's meteoric career faltered in 1990 when allegations of corruption surfaced. Up to then he was a consummate political organiser combining religious fervour and social radicalism. He has always been supported by Ovadia Yosef, the movement's charismatic spiritual leader. He has stood by him

throughout the trial. Even Sephardi who believe Mr Deri took money think that he did no worse than many Israeli politicians of European origin who have escaped criminal charges.

Beni Elbar, a Deri supporter standing outside the court, said: "Even if they put him in solitary confinement he will remain the leader of Shas."

By portraying their leader as a victim of the Ashkenazi establishment, Shas hopes to gain votes at the polls. In a message Mr Deri asked his supporters to show restraint on the streets but to make clear their view of the verdict on election day.

Although Mr Deri could face up to 30 years in prison the appeal process will be prolonged. During this period Mr Deri will remain a key player in Israeli politics and is increasingly close to Mr Netanyahu.

Although Mr Deri is religious, he is not a fanatic. He was part of the government of Yitzhak Rabin, the former prime minister before he was forced to resign by the court.

The unrelenting legal pursuit of Mr Deri over so many years has fed the Sephardi sense that they are an under-class whom the Ashkenazi elite are determined to exclude from power.

Up to the last minute many Shas loyalists expected Mr Deri to be found innocent, or guilty of lesser charges. In the event the court accepted almost all the prosecution's case on the illegal funneling of money to religious institutions to which Mr Deri was connected. It dismissed Mr Deri's explanation of how he received \$167,000 for his personal use.

Hundreds of police were posted around the court yesterday as the verdict was announced. Shas denounced reports of possible disturbances as an attempt to blacken their name.

The trial was one of the longest in Israel's history, generating 41,000 pages of transcript. The length of the proceedings were partly the result of the almost endless delaying tactics of Mr Deri and his three fellow accused.



Aryeh Deri, leader of the Shas party, with supporters in Jerusalem yesterday after being convicted of bribe-taking, fraud and breaching the public trust

AP

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Shield clinches Norwegian deal

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the Scottish drug development group, yesterday finally clinched its troubled £186m merger with its Norwegian rival Axis. The UK company, which specialises in heart-disease tests, was forced to reduce its stake in the combined group after a revolt by two Axis investors. Under the new terms, the all-paper merger will leave Shield shareholders with 45.6 per cent of the enlarged entity, with investors in Axis retaining 54.4 per cent. The previous plan proposed a 62/38 per cent split in Shield's favour. The Dundee-based company also announced a £12m rights issue to pay for some merger-related costs.

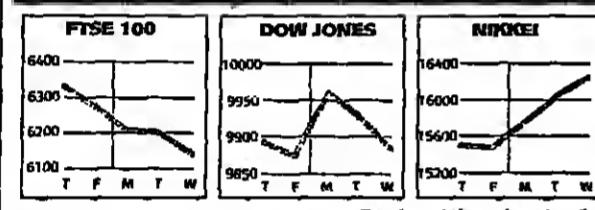
Bid battle for Wace hots up

THE BID battle for Wace, the graphics group led by chief executive Derek Ashley (pictured), heated up last night, with Applied Graphics Technology insisting it was still in the game after the rival US graphics group Schwack secured the agreement of Wace's board to a higher £63.3m cash bid for the company yesterday. Schwack had agreed to raise its original cash and paper offer by 14 per cent after AGT waded in to the battle with a £57m cash bid last week, gatecrashing the deal agreed with Wace in January. Wace's advisers, Lehman Brothers, said the new Schwack offer was worth 11 per cent more than last week's AGT bid. AGT is considering raising its offer.

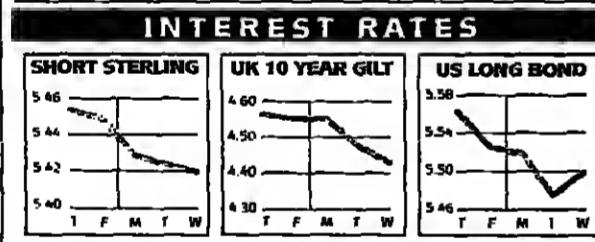
Regent Inns merger on course

REGENT INNS expects to complete its £270m merger with the rival pub group SPT within "the next few weeks," the company says. Delays in completing due diligence have put the timetable back slightly but talks between the two parties are said to be progressing well. The merger is expected to be a "no premium" deal with Regent shareholders likely to hold about 60 per cent of the shares in the enlarged group.

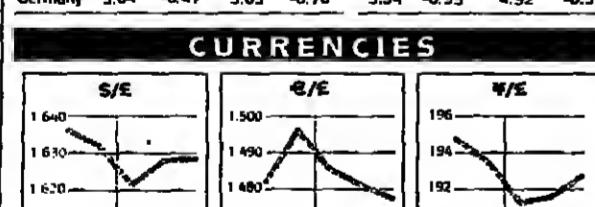
STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Change	Change %	S2	Hight	S3	Low	Vwap
FTSE 100	6140.60	-61.30	-0.99	6365.40	6599.20	6626.66	6070.00	6205.60
FTSE 250	5485.30	-34.40	-0.62	5570.90	5474.60	5511.11	5299.90	5400.26
FTSE 350	2929.90	-27.60	-0.93	3024.90	2910.40	2921.76	2850.00	2910.40
FTSE All Share	2836.90	-25.41	-0.89	2923.83	2143.33	2143.33	2765.00	2836.90
FTSE SmallCap	2374.70	-0.90	-0.04	2793.00	2344.40	2344.40	2344.40	2374.70
FTSE AIM	849.40	-8.90	-1.04	1146.90	761.30	1146.90	761.30	849.40
FTSE Eurotop 100	2988.87	-19.10	-0.64	3079.27	2018.19	2018.19	19.05	2988.87
FTSE Eurotop 300	1245.85	-9.40	-0.75	1332.07	880.63	1332.07	880.63	1245.85
Dow Jones	9884.68	-50.51	-0.51	10001.78	7400.30	10001.78	7400.30	9884.68
Nikkei	16268.11	195.29	1.22	17111.59	12787.90	12787.90	9087.00	16268.11
Hang Seng	10940.07	28.82	0.26	11926.16	6544.29	11926.16	3262.00	10940.07
Dax	50177.43	-17.20	-0.34	6217.16	5833.71	5833.71	5171.71	50177.43
S&P 500	1295.02	-11.84	-0.91	1311.11	923.32	1295.02	923.32	1295.02
Nasdaq	2424.32	-14.95	-0.61	2533.44	1357.09	2533.44	1357.09	2424.32
Toronto 300	6590.70	-29.12	-0.44	7837.70	5320.90	7837.70	5320.90	6590.70
Brazil Bovespa	10557.46	-100.93	-0.95	12339.14	4575.69	12339.14	4575.69	10557.46
Belgium Be20	3342.52	-5.72	-0.17	3713.21	2696.26	3713.21	2696.26	3342.52
Amsterdam Exch	539.97	-0.67	-0.12	606.65	366.58	606.65	366.58	539.97
France CAC 40	4170.01	-16.34	-0.39	4604.94	2881.21	4604.94	2881.21	4170.01
Milan Itex 35	10110.10	-94.80	-0.93	10958.80	6869.90	10110.10	6869.90	10110.10
Madrid Ibex 35	5297.60	0.00	0.00	5581.70	3732.57	5297.60	3732.57	5297.60
5 Korea Composite	600.52	-1.31	-0.22	651.95	277.37	600.52	277.37	600.52
Australia ASX	2977.80	-14.40	-0.48	2996.30	2396.70	2977.80	2396.70	2977.80



MONEY MARKET RATES			BOND YIELDS			
Index	3 month	Yr. Avg	1 Year	Yr. Avg	10 Year	
UK	5.42	-2.13	5.37	-2.15	4.43	-1.52
US	5.00	-0.69	5.26	-0.59	5.13	0.43
Japan	0.19	-0.52	0.23	-0.45	1.79	0.02
Germany	3.04	-0.47	3.03	-0.70	3.94	-0.93



CURRENCIES		
S/E	Yr Ago	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6295 +0.54%	1.6762
Euro	1.4782 -1.01%	1.4079
Yen	192.65 +9.47%	219.94
E Index	102.80 0.00	106.80
Pound	1.6120	1.6120
Gold (\$)	284.15 0.70	292.00
Silver (\$)	5.04 -0.01	6.07

On 30/3/99 for 2000

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)

Austria (Schillings)

Belgium (Francs)

Canada (\$)

Cyprus (Pounds)

Denmark (Kroner)

Finland (Markka)

France (Francs)

Germany (Marks)

Greece (Drachmae)

Hong Kong (\$)

Ireland (Pounds)

India (Rupees)

Israel (Shekels)

Italy (Lira)

Japan (Yen)

Malaysia (Ringgit)

Malta (Lira)

Source: Thomas Cook

Commerzbank seeks stake in Fleming

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

GERMANY'S Commerzbank, has let it be known in the City that it is ready to offer up to 24 a share for a majority stake in Robert Fleming, a price that would value the firm, one of the few remaining independent British investment banks, at more than £4bn.

The offer could be structured to allow the management, under the chairman John Manser and members of the Fleming family, to remain as shareholders.

It would, however, reopen

using the model of Jupiter, its UK fund management business which is 25 per cent owned by the management. "We are not all big bad Germans," one banker said.

Fleming said the bank was not in takeover talks.

The Fleming family remain the biggest shareholders with some 30 per cent, which is held through a variety of trusts.

However, the family are not

united in backing the board,

even though a number of Flemings retain senior management

positions within the firm.

The sources say that Commerzbank, which tried and failed five years ago to acquire Smith New Court, the stockbroker, is keen not to overpay.

The jury is still out within the City over where the sums spent by Fleming over the last 18 months building up its own global equities business from scratch will pay off.

Minority shareholders in Fleming, who have been agitating for the bank to sell out, say that the price being talked

about over the last fortnight is significantly higher than the £20 a share being suggested when Commerzbank was first rumoured to be showing an interest late last year.

However, they add that some senior Fleming executives have been saying over the last few days that the asset management side of the business and Fleming's Save & Prosper retail brand have acquired a greater rarity value following the £1.9bn takeover of M&G by the Prudential. The executives

think the firm should hold out for £30 a share, which would value the group at £4.6bn.

The position of the Hong Kong-based Keswick family also remains uncertain. Following the deal last December to unravel the Jardine Fleming joint venture, the family holds 17 per cent. Bankers say the deal was seen at the time as bolstering the position of those opposed to the sale. However, even £24 a share would represent a premium of around 60 per cent to the price they paid.

Jobless rise points to rate cut soon

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

4.5 per cent the previous month.

Andrew Smith, the employment minister, said the figures showed an improvement in the jobs market. Higher levels of economic activity were accompanied by a "welcome moderation" in earnings growth.

The minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting earlier this month, also released yesterday, indicated that it was a question of when, not if, it should cut rates again.

The majority view was that "although the direction of interest rates was still more likely not to be down, there was no uncertainty this month".

The evidence from the jobs market was mixed, despite the small rise in unemployment. On the one hand the claimant count rose by 4,300 to 1,311,000 in February, and the survey measure of joblessness rose by 37,000 in November to January.

On the other hand, employment climbed by 119,000 in those three months to reach 27,319,000, a new record. The number of people of working age who were "inactive", or out of the workforce, fell by 100,000.

Manufacturing employment fell substantially, however; it dropped by 109,000 to just over four million in the three months to January.

Nor were there any signs of wage pressure. The recently relaunched average earnings index grew by 4.3 per cent in the year to December, compared to

per cent. The ninth, Willem Buiter, voted for a cut of 0.4 percentage points - a degree of pre-emption

The bubble

Web
the glo
weary

MAIN MOVERS														
RISES					FALLS									
Price/P	Chg/P	Yld	P/E	PE Ratio	Price/P	Chg/P	Yld	P/E	PE Ratio					
22 week														
High Low Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E					
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	0.00				22 week	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E					
684 380 United Brewers	880.0	143.2	2.5	124.000	150 51 Chelmsford	152.3	0.0	4.1	77.174	170 152 Buntingford	163.0	-0.6	—	—
399 230 Unilever Plc	2100.0	45.0	2.5	103.125	165 107 Headstone Gp	165.0	-0.6	4.8	171.144	170 155 Wills	165.0	14.5	15	105.500
71 7 Burntwood Det	115.0	0.0	2.5	100.000	170 91 Fifehead	142.5	-0.8	4.8	173.478	170 155 Wills	164.0	14.0	16	104.695
765 478 Bungee	785.0	2.5	2.5	102.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	0.0	4.2	142.600	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
593 600 Bungee Corp	625.0	0.0	2.0	102.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
244 112 Master Corp	245.0	0.0	4.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
592 423 Sunbeamcorp	541.0	1.5	2.5	107.375	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
DANKS														
1372 872 Abingdon Dist	1910.0	14.0	3.1	181.212	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
723 102 Ales	302.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
953 722 Almased Ltd	82.0	0.0	2.5	102.222	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1465 824 Beaufort	1822.0	22.0	2.5	91.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
164 102 Bf & Distr	1184.0	1.0	2.5	101.351	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
974 671 Bf & Distr	1784.0	1.0	2.5	101.245	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1585 787 Bf & Distr (Psp)	1000.0	1.0	2.5	101.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
142 115 Bf & Distr	1000.0	1.0	2.5	101.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
545 223 Lomond J	337.5	0.0	2.0	103.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1118 857 Lloyd's Tsb Gp	1000.0	0.0	2.0	102.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1424 884 M&G	1448.0	2.5	2.5	92.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
723 100 M&G	1000.0	0.0	2.0	102.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1035 861 M&G And Cred	1000.0	0.0	2.0	102.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
1044 557 Standard	1075.0	20.0	2.5	101.547	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
485 355 Winton	302.0	0.0	2.0	101.266	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
417 307 Whistlers	70.0	0.0	2.0	102.577	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
BREWERS/FUDS & REST. - 1/22/99														
1776 871 Ales	980.0	-0.5	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
12 71 Bells Gp	100.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
162 805 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
163 806 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
164 807 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
165 808 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
166 809 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
167 810 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
168 811 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
169 812 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
170 813 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
171 814 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
172 815 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
173 816 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
174 817 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
175 818 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
176 819 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
177 820 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
178 821 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
179 822 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—
180 823 Bells	985.0	0.0	2.0	100.000	175 175 Tyneside Tech	375.5	-0.5	—	—</td					

SPORT

Tennis: Lazy days in Majorca are a distant memory for world No 1 as he seeks the experience to stay at the top

Moya's feet firmly on the ground

BY JOHN ROBERTS

AN OVERJOYED Carlos Moya telephoned his mother from Indian Wells, California. "Mama," he said, "I'm No 1." There was a pause before Pilar Moya responded. "Excuse me," she said, "who's there?"

The suspicion that somebody might be playing a joke arose because Mrs Moya was under the impression that her 22-year-old son needed to do more than win a semi-final last week to become the first man from Spain – let alone Majorca – to head the world tennis rankings since the advent of the ATP computer in 1973.

Reassured that the mission was accomplished, the Moya family settled down to absorb the media reaction. *El Mundo*'s front page headline, "Moya lands in heaven," set the tone, and every publication rejoiced that their hero would remain in a state of grace for at least two weeks, because the next world rankings list is not due until after the 10-day Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida, which end on 28 March.

A year ago, Key Biscayne was taken over by thousands of flag-waving Chileans who arrived on charter flights for the final Sunday, when Marcelo Rios defeated Andre Agassi to supplant Pete Sampras as No 1. Rios spent a total of six weeks at the top, his cause not helped by injuries. Sampras rose again, winning Wimbledon for the fifth time and ending the year as No 1 for a record sixth time.

The effort exhausted Sampras, who missed the Australian Open in January and has since lost early in two tournaments, against Jan-Michael Gambill, an American compatriot, in Scottsdale, Arizona, and against Spain's Felix Mantilla in Indian Wells. That gave Moya the impetus to become only the 15th world No 1 in the history of the ATP rankings and sets a fascinating scene for the months ahead. Sampras goes to Key Biscayne determined to reclaim the No 1 position he held for a total of 262 weeks, six fewer than Jimmy Connors and eight less than Ivan Lendl, who holds the record of 270 weeks. Moya will also expect a strong challenge from Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Alex Corretja, a Spanish friend and rival, and Australia's Pat Rafter, each of whom have faltered within sight of the summit.

Moya, in contrast to Rios, cannot be accused of arriving at the top without a Grand Slam title to his name. He defeated Corretja in the final of the French Open last June, becoming only the fourth Spaniard to win the men's singles championship on the clay courts of Paris. Spanish players are raised on clay, the sport's slowest surface, but only Manuel Santana (1961 and 1964) and Andres Gimeno (1972) had triumphed in the French classic until Sergi Bruguera (1993 and 1994) kicked his countrymen's habit of wearing themselves into the dust in the series of tournaments en route to Paris.

Even more surprising than Moya v Corretja at the French Open, however, was the fact that the pair went on to contest the final of the ATP Tour Championship on an indoor hard court in Hanover November, mocking the perception that claustrophobia is endemic in the men's game in Spain. To put the Hanover revelation in perspective, Moya and Corretja trained together at the Centro Alto Rendimiento Club in San Cugat del Valles, near Barcelona, on the only indoor court in the whole of Spain specifically de-



Spanish master: Carlos Moya 'is the one that has that little bit more', says Tim Henman. 'He's got a deceptive serve, his forehand is difficult to read and he's a very good athlete for a big guy' Allsport

signed for tennis. Three more are currently under construction at the same club.

Corretja advanced to the Hanover final with a three sets win against Sampras. Moya defeated Tim Henman in three sets. "The Spanish guys have got such variation on their groundstrokes," the British No 1 said. "I think Moya is the one that has that little bit more that stands out. He's got a deceptive serve, his forehand is very difficult to read, and he's a very good athlete for a pretty big guy."

Asked to compare the Moya match with his Wimbledon semi-final defeat by Sampras, Henman said: "I think they are very similar; I think I played better against Sampras, but I definitely couldn't have given more on either occasion."

Corretja won the Hanover final after losing the opening two sets, a testimony to his powers of recovery and also evidence that Moya was correct in the self-critical observation that he needed to improve his concentration if he was to become

No 1. As a court artist, Moya, unlike Goya, sometimes flatters to deceive. But he tries to learn from experience.

"After I played my first final in a Grand Slam," Moya said, recounting a straight sets defeat by Sampras at the 1997 Australian Open, "I realised how difficult it was to get there. I didn't know if I was going to be able to do it again. I was still young, 20 years old. I thought if I could do it

once, I could do it again. It happened in the French Open. I played really well. That final in Australia gave me a lot of experience. I know that's why I won the French. The US Open [last year] was the same. I didn't expect to play the semi-final. I was playing my worst tennis ever right before the US Open. But in the right moment, I won that [second round] match against [Michael] Chang [6-3 in the fifth set], and all the power and con-

fidence I lost suddenly came back again."

The resurgence did not last long enough to save Moya from a four-set defeat by Mark Philippoussis in the US Open semi-finals; nor was Moya able to quell the Australian's power over five sets in last Sunday's final in Indian Wells. But that was not allowed to detract from the elation of the folks back home.

Majorca, evocative of package holidays, is hardly a cradle of world class sport, although George Best is among those to have sown wild oats on the island during his summer sojourns from Manchester United. Your correspondent, in a former life, tried to keep track of Best in the days when he sunbathed on Bar Sol Beach, Palma Nova, and commenced most of his evenings with drinks and dinner at the Gomila Grill, in Palma's disco quarter. On the eve of his 26th birthday in May, 1972, Best fled from Manchester to Marbella and announced his retirement from football. He then hit a few balls at Lew Hoad's tennis

ranch before making a temporary truce with United and heading for Majorca prior to pre-season training.

As for home-grown sporting nobodies, Majorca can call up Guillermo Timoner, who won six world cycling titles pedalling furiously behind a motorbike, and Juan Gomis, a world champion submarine fisherman. Moya, asked why there were no more tennis players, smiled and said: "Because it is an island, and the people of Majorca are very lazy."

Real Majorca's exploits in the European Cup-Winners' Cup have added some pep, although Moya's allegiance to his local club is surpassed by his strength of feeling for his adoptive Barcelona. Moya's skills with his feet are almost as impressive as those with his hands, and are often displayed in a kick-about with a tennis ball on the practice courts.

Last Christmas, Moya bet Real Majorca's Argentinian international goalkeeping, Carlos Roa, that he would beat him with three penalty kicks out of five. "No, that's too much," Moya was told by Hector Cuper, the club's trainer. "Make it two out of five." It was sound advice. Moya converted two of the five, and Roa had to treat him to dinner.

In common with many leading players, Moya touches a variety of bases. When not playing tournaments or training in Barcelona, he has a retreat in Monte Carlo. Boris Becker, as familiar in Monaco as in Munich and Miami, is having a house built in Majorca. The three-times Wimbledon champion may come in handy should Moya need extra homework with a serve-volley er.

Tall and lean, Moya wears his hair long, rock style, and probably plays air guitar to CDs by his favourite groups, Aerosmith, U2, Bon Jovi and Queen. In July 1997 he had his hair cut short for a week of mandatory duty with the military reserves; another occasion when his mother was entitled to ask "Excuse me, who's there?"



Jordan: Partnered Palmer

The richest prize in the history of the European women's tour will be on offer at the Evian Masters in France in June. A winner's cheque of £102,500 is more than all but two players, Swedes Helen Alfredsson and Sophie Gustafson, earned in the whole of last season on the circuit. The total purse of £689,000 – up by almost £180,000 – makes the tournament the fifth most lucrative worldwide in the women's game.

Jordan rejects new links

GOLF
BY DOUG FERGUSON

for him. It didn't take much for him to get me down here."

The crowning started as soon as they walked on the first tee. Jordan had his picture taken with Palmer's grandson as Palmer looked on in mock disbelief. "You never want your picture taken with me, Sam," Palmer told him.

Jordan ripped his drive down the middle on the 18th, only to watch country singer Amy Grant hit her drive alongside him from the forward tees. "I think she outdrove you," Palmer said.

Jordan, who has not played since injuring his finger on a cigar cutter five weeks ago, said he was nervous on the first tee with about 2,000 people watching, but played better on the back nine. Along with his eagle, he made a par on the 18th (not birdie) to give his team a 59.

"In basketball, I have all the right skills and I perfected those skills,"

Laura Davies, who set an LPGA record by winning this event four years in a row from 1994, is hoping that a return to a favourite venue will provide a vital spark before the first major of the season, the Nabisco Dinah Shore in California next week.

"I've been hitting the ball well all year but not scoring," said the player who has had one top 10 finish in six starts. "It's not so much depressing as disappointing and I just hope the putting starts to fall this week."

Davies won last season's Tour Championship in November – ending a US Tour drought stretching back to this tournament in 1997 – and she reflected: "I really hoped that would spark a return to top form. But it probably came at the wrong time. We had a five-week break and some of the momentum was lost."

Liselotte Neumann defends the title while fellow Swede Annika Sorenstam, the world No 1, returns from four weeks skiing for only her fourth event of the year.

A NEW British cycling team hits the road next week with their sponsor talking of the Tour de France as a long-term aim.

There is a long and difficult route between the opening race for Team Men's Health, Sunday's Grand Prix of Essex, and a shot at cycling's Holy Grail, three weeks of pedalling purity.

"They have a global image, and the Tour fits in well with that," said Jane Williams, the team director, speaking about the publishing company whose Men's Health magazine is behind the sponsorship. "They are discussing four or five years down the line, and they are keen to work towards a team for the Tour."

Leading the 10 riders who comprise Team Men's Health is the former world track champion, Colin Sturgess, who last year made a successful comeback after a five-year lay-off.

The last British-backed team to

Testing route for British venture

CYCLING
BY ROBIN NICROLL

tackle the Tour was ANC-Halfords in 1987. Four of the nine-man team completed the 4,321km to Paris, an ill-prepared venture founded on the ambitions of their boss, Tony Capener, who was later sued by his riders for unpaid wages.

The new team is an English-Welsh mix, but for a future Tour quest they will have to buy in European talent and be prepared to invest cash by the million to qualify for a place. On Sunday it clashes with Britain's No 1 team, Linda McCartney Foods, managed by Sean Yates, one of only a few Britons who knows the Tour's demands.

An early target for Team Men's Health will be a place in Britain's ProTour in May, which will be a big enough step in their first campaign.

Johnson loses
SHOW REPORTS IN
SKI HOTLINE

SKI HOTLINE
SNAPSHOT

On or off piste
0800 36
ONE CALL AND FOUR

Keegan may pick Parlour

HAVING TAKEN one of his teams to a 12-point lead at the top of the Nationwide League's Second Division on Tuesday night, Kevin Keegan will today begin the task of lifting the other one towards the summit of Group Five of the European Championship qualifying tournament.

Ruham's chief operating officer will thus reinforce himself as the England coach, and issue a squad that begins with David Seaman rather than

Mark Taylor.

The bulk of the party for Saturday week's crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland at Wembley will be much the same as the one chosen by Glenn Hoddle - but there are likely to be a few changes.

The most high-profile candidates are Paul Gascoigne, who has not played for England since he was controversially dropped before the World Cup, and Chris Sutton, who was ban-

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

ished by Hoddle for refusing to play for England's B side.

Though Keegan said he is starting with a clean sheet, he is unlikely to choose either Gascoigne's form remains inconsistent, while Sutton is still regaining his match fitness.

Instead, Keegan's thoughts are likely to centre on another Hoddle reject, Ray Parlour, whose excommunication followed his alleged request for a "short-back-and-sides" as Eileen Dwyer laid her hands upon his head.

Hoddle's favourite healer has since denied that comment was ever made but, whatever the truth of the matter, the shaggy-haired Arsenal midfielder was dropped without even pulling on an England shirt.

The 26-year-old may now

get that chance under Keegan, which would be appropriate because his approach to the game echoes the caretaker's own playing career far more closely than it does Hoddle's.

Like Keegan, Parlour's energy and enthusiasm has en-

abled him to make the most of limited natural technical ability. After a spell in his early 20s when he appeared to go off the rails, he has flourished under the influence of Arsene Wenger and fatherhood.

While Parlour would be a

useful addition to the squad, he would not solve England's problem position - the left flank. This was hidden in Hoddle's system but, as Howard Wilkinson discovered against France, reverting to 4-4-2 highlights the weakness. Thus the

recent mentions in dispatches for Steve Guppy and Scott Sellars, both of whom were bought and sold by Keegan at Newcastle United.

Guppy is more likely to feature. While Sellars is playing in the Nationwide League with Bolton, he at least is in the Premiership with Leicester. He is also in fine form and will play at Wembley on Sunday. As neither are young - Sellars is 33, Guppy 30 later this month - and both are uncapped, Keegan may be better served by recalling the 27-year-old Jason Wilcox, though he is presently operating in central midfield for Blackburn.

Other former Newcastle

players are inevitably likely to feature in Keegan's thinking. In

midfield Rob Lee and David

Batty could be recalled after injury, though Lee Bowery and

Tim Sherwood will also come

under consideration. At the

back, Steve Howey, whose Eng-

land career has never recov-

Ramsey breaks new ground

CHRIS RAMSEY, once an FA Cup finalist with Brighton and Hove Albion, has become the first black England manager after being appointed to lead the country's Under-20 squad at the World Youth Championship in Nigeria next month.

Ramsey, 36, has worked under the Football Association technical director, Howard Wilkinson, since June last year and is currently the FA's south-east and London regional coaching director.

With UEFA qualifications be-

him, he has been assisting former professionals such as David Platt on their fast-track coaching courses with the FA in recent months.

Ramsey said: "When I started playing, I was among the first batch of black players in this country. To be the first black coach to lead out an England side - I can't tell you how much it means to me. Hopefully I can open the door and a lot of others will come flooding in."

"The higher profile I can

become will be good for me per-

sonally," Ramsey added. "It will also be good for a whole community of people, not just the black community but other professionals who haven't been significantly big names."

As a defender, Ramsey's career took him to Swindon, Southampton and Brighton, before a stint as player-coach of Malta's Naxxar Lions. Since then, he has helped to coach Leyton Orient and has also taken charge of the Florida-based Cocoa Expos in the US Indoor Soccer League.



Parlour: Enthusiastic

erased from the injury he suffered preparing for Euro 96, has

been found form at the right time.

The biggest question will

not be answered until next

week. Having decided to retain

Alan Shearer as captain, who

will Keegan play alongside

him? Michael Owen or Andy

Cole? Since Keegan has been

juggling Geoff Horsfield, Barry

Hayles, Paul Peschisolido and

Dirk Lehmann in his day job, he

will at least be used to such

dilemmas. England will hope

his choice is as successful.

Five-try Rovers find it tough

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Featherstone Rovers 23

Widnes 12

WIDNES DID not quite have the energy in the tank to hold out against a fresher Featherstone Rovers in an intriguing tussle between two of the Northern Ford Premiership's more ambitious contenders.

Two converted tries in the final two minutes made Featherstone's victory look clear-cut, but it had been a very different match in the first half.

If Featherstone thought that Widnes might be jaded from the start after acquitting themselves well for an hour against Leeds in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals on Sunday, they were soon disabused.

Within the first five minutes, Steve Argent had split them through the middle and Hiltro Okesene prevented a quick play-the-ball at the expense of a sin-binning and a penalty, kicked by Mark Hewitt.

Three minutes later Paul Mansfield's clever inside pass released Fabien Devechci and, before Rovers could get over that, some dazzling ball handling ended with Jason Critchley going over on the right, Hewitt landing his second goal for a 12-point lead before Okesene's return.

Featherstone did not start to recover their composure until midway through the half but then began the long climb back. Steve Dooler slipping through for their first try and their captain, Carl Hall, bouncing out of a series of tackles for their second.

Richard Chapman missed both conversions, but a penalty narrowed the margin to a precarious two points at half-time.

Richard Slater took Rovers into the lead for the first time on the hour when he found a way through a Widnes defence that was starting to look tired.

That and a conversion from Chapman, who later went to the sin-bin with Jim Cassidy after a flare-up, would have been enough.

But Neil Lowe managed to bathe his way over two minutes from time to make certain of the points and Matt Bramall scooped up a loose ball to inflate the scoreline with the fifth try in injury time.

Featherstone Rovers: Bramall, Stokes, Hall, Law, Simonds, Coventry, Handley, Okesene, Symeon, O'Brien, Joutsi, Doherty, Slater; 22 drop-goals used; Horsey, Amano, Evans, Lowe.

Widnes: Brits; Smith, Critchley, Mansfield, Munro, Devechci, Hewitt, Hansen, Critchley, Argent, Dooler, Sodico, Cassidy; Substitutes used: Hunter, Eyes.

Referee: G Stow (Wigan).



Chelsea train on the pitch in Oslo where they play Valerenga in tonight's European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final

Allsport

Chelsea given a frosty welcome

A FEARSOME heating bill should ensure that Chelsea's European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final second leg match away to Valerenga goes ahead tonight, but cannot guarantee that conditions will be any better than on their previous trip to Norway 17 months ago.

On their way to winning the competition last season, Gianluca Vialli's team suffered a 3-2 defeat in Tromso - despite his two goals - in a game that most people other than the referee felt should have been abandoned as a second-half blizzard made conditions increasingly farcical.

Valerenga, who are 3-0 down

from the first leg, have had undersoil heating on for two months but it was still an un-

pleasant shock for the Chelsea

By STEVE TONGUE
in Oslo

squad to leave behind London's balmy spell yesterday and find two inches of snow on the ground. "After Tromso and this, the next time I want to see snow is on a skiing holiday," Vialli said. Things might have been worse. Shortly after the team's charter flight from Gatwick touched down, Oslo Airport was closed and one group of supporters arriving from Headrowe found themselves diverted 200 miles south to Gothenburg.

Eloebouf injured a thigh

against Liverpool two weeks ago, and his compatriot had to

go off against West Ham with a strained hamstring. Vialli said that he did not want to risk either player before Sunday

morning's Premiership match away to Aston Villa, though he admitted the position might have been different were this another game at Villa Park - the venue for the final on 19 May.

Michael Duberry and Bernard Lambourde, who have each started only one match in the competition this season, are the obvious replacements in defence for the French pair, though Andy Myers played on Saturday. Until recently Myers did not even have a squad number, and it would presumably give him a warm glow even to be a substitute tonight.

Bjorn Goldbaek, a scorer for Copenhagen against Chelsea in the second round, and the young Finnish striker Mikael Forssell are both ineligible. Vialli has no qualms

about picking Graeme Le Saux and seems likely to start him self ahead of Tony Andre Fio.

Chelsea will certainly welcome a respite from the unremitting nature of domestic football, following successive home defeats by Manchester United and West Ham. "Our United has been good but the results have been bad," Vialli said. The holders must do without their regular two central defenders, Franck Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly, neither of whom travelled to Norway.

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against Liverpool two weeks ago, and his compatriot had to

go off against West Ham with a strained hamstring. Vialli said that he did not want to risk either player before Sunday

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and seems likely to start him

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That would please Valen-

ge's coach, Egil Olsen, the mas-

ter-builder of Norwegian foot-

ball, who always had a place for

the lanky striker in his heart and

his national team. "I'll be pleased if

Tore is on the bench," he said.

"I believe it will improve our

chances of pulling off a miracle."

That is no exaggeration of

the Norwegians' task. Although

Chelsea have not scored in

three games since the first

leg, they have conceded only one

goal in five Cup-Winners' Cup

matches, and ought to reach

the semi-final without much alarm.

Staying cool will certainly be a problem.

Chelsea (probable): De Gea, Ferri, Du-

berry, Lambourde, Le Saux, Petrescu, Di-

Matteo, Wise, Babayaro; Vialli, Zola.

Referee: G Stow (Wigan).

League to fine errant clubs

SUPER LEAGUE clubs face

heavy fines if they breach a new

code of conduct which is to be

adopted at the end of this

month, writes Dave Hadfield.

Clubs responsible for blun-

ders like clashes of colours and

w

Five-tri Rovers find it tough

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

Weather: fine, 15°C

Waterloo

WATERSIDE: It's not gone back to the right time, but it's been resolved to ignore all unsolicited advice than you fall into misleading conversation.

For example, a personal selection on Tuesday, one based on the conclusion of a friend who devotes much time to these matters, was Norman Williamson's ride in the last, the Stakis Casinos Final, on the Irish-trained mare Generous.

Until shortly after Istabraq's

marvellous victory in the Champ-

on-Hurdle my faith in Generous as a saving bet was unshakable. It

was then that I renewed acquaint-

ance in the unsaddling enclosure

with a well-connected, impeccably

groomed Irishman who expressed

strong views about the controver-

sial outcome of last Saturday's

race.

Well, it's the first race,

Steve Clegg had got through in the middle of the race,

Clegg prevented a replay

at the start of the race,

and it had been re-

resolved to replay

the race well for all

the punters involved.

I don't know what

I'll do, but I'll be

there to stick

England with my

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Steve Clegg had got through in the middle of the race,

Clegg prevented a replay

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and it had been re-

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the punters involved.

I don't know what

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Pearl has lustre of majesty

AS THEY celebrate in the celestial drinking house, the huddle comprising the likes of Arkle and Golden Miller may be preparing to induce a new member into their executive bar.

The last Cheltenham Gold Cup of the millennium is greatly notable by the fact that it may throw up a quite extraordinary horse. It looks like we have a choice of three.

Those who have not heard of Florida Pearl will not be reading this piece. In the fast-gossiping sphere of Irish racing, his name has been passed round like old jumble virtually from the moment he could stand on four legs.

He has grown up to be a beast of substance both in size and achievement, and if the seven-year-old wins this afternoon he will be doing so for the third successive Festival. At the

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
Racing Correspondent

him. But horses do surprise you. If he gets there as good as last year that will do me."

Certainly Florida Pearl did not look like damaged goods in his Cotswolds surroundings yesterday morning. His stablemate Alexander Banquet may have later capsized under

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Florida Pearl
(Cheltenham 3.15)
NB: Decoupage
(Cheltenham 5.40)

same time, he may bring to an end several bookmakers' involvement with the meeting. Istabraq's win for the travellers put several layers on debt row on Tuesday, and a potentially lethal injection of support for Florida Pearl now awaits.

The big horse has developed a habit of getting out the cigarettes once he hits the front and it could be that he is a great deal better than already shown.

"I'm not sure how much he can come on," Willie Mullins, his trainer, says. "He won his first bumper as a four-year-old and the Cheltenham bumper as a five-year-old so he obviously came to hand very early. So you wouldn't imagine there is an awful lot of improvement in

expectation in the first race on the card, but as Florida picked grass in a sunshine state he appeared the epitome of relaxation.

Istabraq and Double Thriller were considered to be little more than jolly hockeysticks protagonists this time last year. The former luminary

ies of point-to-pointing have had to be taken treated more seriously since then.

Indeed, Teeton Mill can make himself majestic by deed here. Only Arkle has won a Hennessy Gold Cup, King George VI Chase and Gold Cup in the same season and the most celebrated of steeplechase can be considered a rather reasonable benchmark in this sport.

If there is a blemish in Teeton Mill's record it comes in the shape of an appearance here in the Champion Hunters' Chase last April. The grey looked a bit of an old man that day as Double Thriller strode 12 lengths clear of him up the hill. That effort must be redressed.

Double Thriller himself is now with Paul Nicholls, an appointment which no longer seems to be a permanent bar to success at the Festival fol-

lowing the trainer's debut successes this year.

In another life, Nicholls was aboard the 1987 Gold Cup favourite, Playschool, who was pulled up, and he even managed to cap that disaster 12 months ago when the fancied See More Business was carried out by Cyborgo.

Nicholls was so displeased by that eventualities that he seemed prepared to tear out the entrails of Cyborgo's trainer, Martin Pipe. You could have roasted chestnuts in Nicholls's ears and, had he not been restrained, Chester Barnes might now be a fully-fledged licence holder.

"That's in the past, dead and buried," Nicholls says. "It got totally exaggerated and blown out of all proportion. What I felt that day is best kept to myself. When something like that happens you don't

just say to yourself 'well that was bad luck wasn't it?' It was just my temperament I suppose."

Double Thriller has not proved so hellish this season, slaughtering sad animals like the keeper of an abattoir. His preparatory races have not been debilitating tests and that will help him in this the most demanding of contests.

It could be that Double Thriller is a very good horse indeed and it is his great misfortune to be running against an animal unusual by its uncharted ability. A bar stool can be made vacant in the heavens because this afternoon we are about to witness a racehorse of the rarest accomplishments.

It is scripted that the century should go out gloriously. It is scripted that FLORIDA PEARL (nap 3.15) should win the Cheltenham Gold Cup.



Edredon Bleu, Mulligan and Ask Tom (right to left) take the field away from the packed stands in yesterday's Queen Mother Champion Chase David Ashdown

Church hush follows Dundee's fall

THE FESTIVAL nearly died here yesterday, in the time it took Nick Dundee to turn from a cruising champion to a tangled mess of legs on the landing side of Cheltenham's notorious downhill fence. As he struggled to his feet, the horse that most of Ireland had come to back started to hop and stagger on just three legs, normally the sign of a broken bone and an imminent bullet. Looks Like Trouble, who was left clear by the fall and won the Royal & SunAlliance Chase in a canter, met the hush of a church as he galloped past the stunned grandstands a few seconds later.

By the evening, though, the news seemed better. Nick Dundee stood on all four legs and then walked into the horse

BY GREG WOOD
at Cheltenham

ambulance a few minutes after his fall. Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, reported that "the vet at the scene thought there would be no permanent damage and the prospects look good".

It meant that the crowds who had left hundreds of thousands of pounds in the betting ring could at least walk out of the gate with something to cling to. It was the memory of Nick Dundee as a brown monster galloping smoothly down the hill, full of running and with all but one of his rivals long since beaten off. It is an image which will still be sharp if he ever returns to Cheltenham for a Gold Cup.

fought out by Edredon Bleu and Call Equiname, the first and second favourites.

As he was led back towards the runner-up's position, Tony McCoy, Edredon Bleu's jockey, was twisting in his saddle to watch a replay of the closing stages on the giant screen above the paddock. To judge by the look of puzzlement on his face, he was trying to work out what had gone wrong. He had led over the last on Edredon Bleu, and was still going well enough to think that nothing would come past him. With half a furlong to run, though, something did.

But if McCoy was surprised, the grandstands were less so, for Call Equiname had been quietly tracking Edredon Bleu from the top of the hill. Mick

Fitzgerald had judged the race perfectly, and knew very well that Call Equiname cannot hit the front until the final strides. His challenge was delivered with split-second precision, to claim both the £73,000 first prize, and a £60,000 bonus for adding the Champion Chase to his win in the Victor Chandler Chase.

"This was always my nap of the meeting," Paul Nicholls, his trainer, said afterwards. "He has given us plenty of headaches and has been pin-fired, bar-fired and implanted. His legs have been problems but as an unbroken record suggest, he is a very good horse."

Barton's future, meanwhile, will be planned with a return to the Festival for next year's

Champion Hurdle as the prime objective. Istabraq, of course, is already a 7-1 chance for that race, but with Barton's astonishingly easy success yesterday, the two novice hurdles at this year's meeting have been won by a total of 26 lengths. Barton is now a 10-1 chance for the 2000 Champion Hurdle, and the first championship of the next century could well turn out to be one of the best.

The Coral Cup, yesterday's big handicap, was a greenwash for the Irish, who provided the first five horses home. The one horse they wanted above all to win yesterday, though, was Nick Dundee. His defeat cast a cloud over the Festival, and a victory for Florida Pearl in this afternoon's Gold Cup will help it away.

My hopes kicked away by a flailing hoof

IMAGINE THE contrast between sitting, staring mainly at Sessame Street on Channel 4, waiting for the racing coverage to start, and pulling on breeches in a packed weighing-room at Cheltenham in anticipation of five good rides on a glorious afternoon at the Festival.

Sadly, I was doing the former yesterday and not the latter. My fall from Kadou Nonnatais on Tuesday meant that my Festival was terminated after just four races. The fall itself was a soft one, but the feet of Macgeorge unfortunately connected with the back of my head. The only obstruction between the horse's plated hooves and my helmet was my right hand.

This probably saved me from having to buy a new skull

cap but didn't do a lot for my chances of riding a Festival winner this week.

Luckily the X-rays have shown that nothing is broken, but my hand resembles a water-filled marigold and my brain is not recalling all the events of yesterday. I will have to sit on the sidelines for a compulsory week but should be able to resume riding after that.

Most Festival-winning jockeys look like roller Lottery winners simply because they know what a fine line exists between success and failure.

Today the stakes are as high as they get. The Gold Cup is the prize we all want, and today I feel sure that it will belong to

Jamie Osborne on how the injury to his hand provides a lasting pain in the frustration of so many plans and dreams



Norman Williamson for the second time. His ride, Teeton Mill, has thrived since joining Venucia Williams, and he can put the seal on an unbelievable season for an extraordinary trainer. Do not listen to the doubters who say that he will not stay. This horse is simply a douser when he hits the front, and now that Norman is armed with that knowledge you can be sure he will not take it up too soon.

The each-way value in the race does with another grey, Sun Bay. Laid out for this race, he is at his best when fresh and comes here after an 80-day break.

Venicia Williams may have to play second fiddle to Martin Pipe in the Stayers' Hurdle. His Deano's Beenoo is an out-and-out stayer and he can draw the speed from Lady Rebecca.

The annual four-year-old cavalry charge, otherwise known as the Triumph Hurdle, has thrown up some strange results over the years, but this year's favourite, Katarina, looks like being a tough nut to crack and should not be opposed. Philip Hobbs's Nuvellino could run into a place at a huge price.

Flying Instructor may get outpaced through the middle of

the race in the Grand Annual Chase but will be staying on stoutly up the hill and this consistent nine-year-old is worthy of some extra support.

The Cathcart Chase goes to the ultra-consistent Dr Leumi, who would deserve a Festival triumph after battling with injury for most of his life. He actually races with a metal plate in his leg.

The final race of the Festival is the County Hurdle at 5.40. The drying ground gives the Tote Gold Trophy winner, Decoupage, an outstanding chance of winning. He sidestepped the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday for this easier option and can reward his connections' caution with a win here, putting the seal on a memorable day for Norman Williamson.

I THINK that LE COUDRAY is a good thing in the Stayers' Hurdle this afternoon. Aidan O'Brien's runner is in a different class to Lady Rebecca, the best of the British-trained horses and should have no problems in conceding the 5lb weight-for-sex allowance to her.

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I can also pass on a good word for See More Business, and I am confident that he will finish in front of Double Thriller, his stable mate.

See More Business had a problem and wasn't firing when disappointing in recent outings, but my information is that he has been flying at home and will start at a decent price.

Double Thriller, however, looks a short price to me for a horse that had nothing to beat in either of its races this season.

Dodger McCartney was on the mark yesterday with Barton, who landed a gamble from 5-2 to 2-1 favourite in the opening Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle.

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SPORT

SPAIN'S KING OF TENNIS P26 • LEWIS FIGHT INQUIRY P27

Festival marred by injury

RACING

BY JOHN COBB

THE SICKENING sight of a great, charging thoroughbred being reduced to a pathetic, limping beast cast a shadow over the second day of the Cheltenham Festival yesterday.

Nick Dundee, widely predicted to become the next great steeplechaser and the hot favourite for the novice chasers' championship, the Royal & SunAlliance Chase, was powering towards victory with all but one of his rivals beaten off when he crashed to the ground at the third last fence.

The immediate prognosis looked poor as the horse was unable to stand on his near-hind leg and it appeared that the limb was broken. Later it transpired that the injury might not be quite as bad as first appeared, although the gelding's racing career, if not his life, remains in the balance.

His jockey, Norman Williamson, who returned to the weighing room in tears, said: "There was a lot of hype about this horse and I was trying to tell everyone that anything can happen in racing."

Nick Dundee's trainer, Eddie O'Grady, said: "It's quite serious as there's a suspicion of a crack at the end of his cannon-bone and fetlock joint. We will await developments but I'm not, as you say, reasonably optimistic."

Cheltenham, pages 29 to 31



Denis Irwin, the Manchester United full-back, challenges Internazionale's captain, Giuseppe Bergomi (right), during last night's European Cup quarter-final second leg in Milan

European Cup: Ferguson's men show composure in advance to semi-final

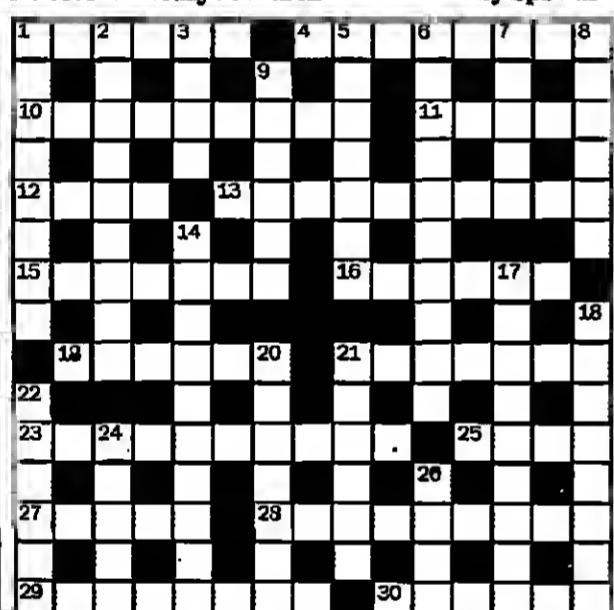
Scholes' late strike seals United triumph

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No.3873 Thursday 18 March

by Spurias

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- Refusal to have six counties included in agreement (6)
- Pipe used for air found on beach? (3)
- Rod and cane broken, perhaps (9)
- Cadet, maybe, one accepted by commander in southern Norway (5)
- Emperor procrastinated somewhat, being reactionary (4)
- Retribution for person embezzled endlessly castigated (10)
- With castle surrounded, behaved obsequiously (7)
- Exam in which a student's given article a sidelong look? (6)
- Shortage of darning thread? (6)
- Son interrupts musician,

DOWN

- Standard index of oil reserves (8)
- Regularise Scandinavian's crossing of African country? (6)
- A child starting to experience pain (4)
- Role playing will be in English in the near
- causing agitation (7)
- Not playing capriciously, butлагимо? (10)
- Southern resting-place for northerner (4)
- Restaurant service, or vice versa (5)
- View expressed on paper (5)
- Promulgation about a second pay cut? (3)
- America eyes when male pupil enters is decorous (6)
- Route where fare's always going down (10)
- Condescend to be entertained by crude ignoramus (5)
- Agent for stair-carpet (6)
- Large-scale movement certainly (6)
- Magnify problems with stems to grow gardenias (10)
- Questioning content of religious education (9)
- Unlikely to pass through Bury, perhaps, without feeling (6)
- Watches horses (7)
- Illness cutting life short - it's over, complete (6)
- Work by journalists expressed his point of view (6)
- Patriarch about to take up new savings scheme initially (5)
- Party exercises intelligence (4)

IT WAS never easy and, for nearly half an hour it was very tough indeed, but Manchester United last night edged their way into the European Cup semi-finals for the second time in three years.

Having seen off Ronaldo they fell behind to a 62nd-minute goal from Nicola Ventola but, just as it seemed Internazionale might force extra time, Paul Scholes scored with three minutes left to secure United's progress.

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Having seen off Ronaldo they fell

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Prada's cool.
Gucci is posh.
Versace shows
you're rich.
But if you want
pure fashion with
an intelligent
streak, then this
year's British
Fashion Award
winner is the
designer for you.
Who's that boy?
Hussein Chalayan

not second best in Milan
advance to semi-final
rike
iumph

Hussein Chalayan first came to the fashion world's attention when he buried his degree collection in a friend's back garden to discover how it would decompose. Now the avant-garde designer

is finally being taken seriously. Last night, at a ceremony held at London's Natural History Museum, he won the prestigious British Designer of the Year award. He has previously been nominated three times. So why did it take him so long to win?

"Perhaps it is because the British have always been slightly suspicious of conceptual, so-called intellectual fashion," he says, "or perhaps it's because my clothes aren't sexy or sensationalist."

Or perhaps because it has taken him a long time to shake off his potty professor image. Not for him the histronics or high camp posturing normally associated with the breed. He thinks carefully about each question before he answers it in much the same way as he agonises - and I mean agonises - over each and every garment before he offers it up to outside scrutiny.

In appearance, too, he is hardly a walking advertisement for high fashion. When I interviewed him he was, as always, dressed in low-key jeans, sweatshirt and clumpy boots that have seen better days, as has his closely shaved head (much of his hair has dropped out - presumably from stress).

"This is an all-encompassing job," he says, explaining his frayed physical appearance. "It's mental, emotional, even neurological." He looks completely zapped of energy, lying back on a sofa, prodding his motionless, apart from his knee, which feels as if he's got a trapped nerve. "It's like a nervous twitch. I've had to train it to stop jerking, especially in important meetings."

Chalayan's reputation for obscurity started when he became the first designer in London to turn his catwalk shows into performance art. His performances featured dresses suspended by helium balloons, and razor-sharp suits that lit up with light-path patterns. He produced dresses made from unripened fruit that could be folded into their own envelopes and sent through the post. In one show he encased his

models' heads and faces with huge cones of polished wood. His "set" is a bare white cube, distorted by mirrors or walls that create dramatic perspectives, and featuring a live Gregorian choir. His latest invention is an electronically articulated plastic dress that spreads its wings as if

coming in to land.

Chalayan has always been preoccupied with technology; at college he was always armed with textbooks on aerodynamics, philosophy and medicine rather than the latest issue of *Vogue*.

It wasn't so much the challenging nature of his work that posed problems, but rather his apparent lack of business nous, coupled with his perceived indifference to making wearable clothes. Prospective buyers were dazzled and baffled. But alongside his innovative "show pieces" he has never failed to produce clothes that have been cleaned of gimmicks.

Beneath the intellectual conceit of their presentation, the clothes themselves are simple and easy to wear. A jacket may defy the laws of pattern-cutting in its complexity, but the line is always pure.

BY REBECCA LOWTHORPE

International markets, accustomed to conceptual fashion shows, were quick to appreciate him. Last year Chalayan was appointed design chief of the TSE New York line, the luxury American label based in Manhattan. Ironically, the capital of commercial fashion was the first to acknowledge that he was capable of designing clothes to wear, not just to gawk at in amazement. The high-street chain store Top Shop brought him in to design collections for them and, in fashion terms, you can't get more real than that.

Chalayan, who is now 28, has also been commissioned by the architect Zaha Hadid to design uniforms for the "mind" section of the Millennium Dome, and Turkish Cypriot Airlines have asked him to come up with a makeover for its flight attendants' uniforms, aeroplane interiors and logo. On top of all this, Chalayan's work is soon to be exhibited in galleries in Tokyo, Vienna, New York and Germany but he can't remember where exactly. Gradually, it seems, the world of design has embraced the Chalayan way of

thinking: rigorous, and with a certain innocence not normally associated with London's pyrotechnic designers.

Hussein Chalayan's background is as unconventional as his take on fashion. The only child of Turkish Cypriot parents, he was born in Nicosia in 1970. When he was five years old his parents' marriage broke up. At 12 he was plunged into English boarding-school life at Highgate School in north London, an experience he likes to bring to the Army. His mother and aunt always fly over from Cyprus for his shows, while his hotelier father has been known to put on the backstage buffet.

After A-levels, he abandoned his plans to study architecture when a friend told him he would be "building office blocks all day" and instead embarked on fashion. He did a foundation course at Mid-Warwickshire College in the genteel tea-room town of Leamington Spa, where he came up with fabrics printed with various cuts of meat. Then came four years at London's Central Saint Martin's School of Art and

Design, where one tutor told him to "bugger off and study sculpture". Tutors and students alike found his intense arguments about religion and identity overwhelming, if not irritating.

Today he is a star and everyone wants a slice of his action. The Chambre Syndicale, the French equivalent of our British Fashion Council, is trying to persuade Chalayan to abandon London Fashion Week and show his twice-yearly collections in Paris. He has not yet decided whether to go.

"I would like to make London work," he says. "It's more challenging than to move abroad, which is such a predictable pattern. And I hate the idea of being predictable," he adds, "somewhat unnecessarily."

"There is something sacred about maintaining London Fashion Week, but when it

boils down to business, it's a different issue." The problem, he says, is that the powerful, immensely influential American press bypasses London. "It's because there are no major advertisers based here, like Gucci, Prada and Versace. None of us [British designers] have that sort of magazine spending power."

What about Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of American *Vogue*, who surprised everyone when she showed up for London Fashion Week last month?

"She only came because she was hosting an *American Vogue* party," says Chalayan, refusing to acknowledge the impact of her front-row presence at his show. But even the apparently indifferent Chalayan was genuinely pleased when, in a rare move for Anna Wintour, she congratulated him afterwards backstage. This was indeed a mark of favour from the high priestess of *Vogue*.

The thorny issue of where Chalayan will choose to show in future is also dependent on the movements of his contemporary Alexander McQueen, who is rumoured (hysterically so, in London fashion circles) to be off to New York.

If McQueen goes it will be more difficult for designers in London. But it's a question of discovering other designers. There's plenty of talent here, other than me and McQueen, who need to be given a chance." There's no hint here of insecurity. Chalayan knows he's made it.

He refuses to be taken in by the likes of Isabella Blow, the fruit-cake doyenne of British fashion, who likes to parade around in her favourite designers' clothes and also causes daily sensations with her avant-garde hats.

Ms Blow recently asked Hussein Chalayan whether she might borrow one of his sensational frocks to wear to the British Fashion Awards.

"It's fine," he replied, "just as long as you don't wear a lobster on your head."

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EDUCATION &
FAST TRACK

OW YOU ARE

Europe: what now?
 Sir: Following the resignation of European Commission members, can we now expect an addition to this summer's European elections, to allow us - the common people - to choose our own Commissioners, thus allowing more accountability?
ANDREW BOWDLER
*Pokhara,
 Nepal*

Sir: I despair for those on hospital waiting lists; for teachers and for our children in crumbling schools; for our fishermen; for the thousands of small businessmen put out of business by overbearing regulations and EU officialdom.

The resources, financial and human, that have been dedicated to the unworkable collective partnership that the EU is, can now be shown by the fatal report on the workings of the Commission to have been wasted.

It is time that we stop pursuing through the EU our goal of peaceful, mutually beneficial relationships with our neighbours. The Commission is beyond redemption. Our government's time should now be spent looking at alternatives outside of the EU to achieve this aim. We should demand repatriation of powers to Westminster, to give our MPs the ammunition to solve the problems in our country.

DOUGLAS ELLISON
*Campaign for an Independent Britain
 London SE3*

Sir: What does the word "resign" mean nowadays? For EU Commissioners it appears to mean hold a press conference, appoint yourselves back to your old jobs as "caretakers" and then, in the case of the British pair, wait for the Blair government to reappoint you. One wonders what their definition of "responsibility" would be.

Dr DAVID J TIMSON
*Kidlington,
 Oxfordshire*

Sir: Let us accept all their resignations (and no golden handshakes) and put in people who have a sense of honour and responsibility and know the meaning of honesty. That would automatically rule out politicians, trade unionists and bankers. Our own Civil Service has a lot to be proud of and could act as a template. Failing that we could do a lot worse than replace the Commissioners with corner-shop owners, taxi drivers and fishermen.

MARTIN ANDERSON
*Bray,
 Berkshire*

Argentina's case

Sir: I welcome the reference to the United Nations, made by J Check, R Cockwell and S Halford in their letter of 16 March ("Falklands freedom"), since the world organisation has a significant part to play in the South Atlantic problem.

At the same time, I find the reference selective and incomplete for, while recognising the principle of self-determination, the UN has equally stated the primacy of territorial integrity in certain colonial situations. Such pre-eminence had also found an echo in the International Court of Justice. Accordingly, the UN has explicitly rejected the application of the principle of self-determination to the "Falklands/Malvinas Question". It could not be otherwise, given that the islands were initially part of Argentina and ever since their colonial occupation Argentines and other South Americans have been banned from settling there. Self-determination would not do justice to pre-existing Argentine rights and would legitimise the forcible and continued exclusion of the original population.

The inescapable historic and legal fundamentals of this issue and its geographic reality, make a constructive and forward-looking



Cuba No 4: Kids play basketball on the streets of Havana

Michael MacSweeney

dialogue all the more advisable. On its part, following relevant UN resolutions and like a friendly democracy, Argentina is firmly committed to searching for a negotiated solution with Britain. Furthermore, as stated in the Argentine Constitution, it remains bound to pursue its claim with due respect for the way of life of the present inhabitants.

ROGELIO FIRTER
*Ambassador
 Embassy of the Argentine Republic
 London W1*

Sir: Why can't Britain face up in the Falklands issue?

If the rival British and Argentine claims went for judgement to the International Court the balance of probability is that the Court would find in favour of Argentina. Certainly the British action in taking over the Islands in 1832 would be unthinkable now.

Nevertheless the islanders say that they are only prepared to settle down and live in peace and friendship with Argentina after the Argentines have dropped their claim. Until they do there will be no access to the Islands for Argentines and no talks. This is impractical politics. It is also a permanent finger in the eye of Argentina. The islanders justify their stance by emphasising their Britishness and denigrating Argentines and Argentina.

The islanders deserve a permanent British guarantee of their security, democracy and way of life that is such things as language, law and education. It is up to Britain to find a way of bringing Argentina to join in this guarantee.

The islanders did not create the problem. It is a problem between Britain and Argentina; and there is no escaping responsibility by saying we must leave it to the 1,500 voters on the Islands to decide.

We should look again at Prince Charles's words. He hoped that the two democracies, one big and one little, could live together in peace and friendship. He did not say this

could only happen once the Argentines had dropped their claim. It is up to Britain to make a start and open discreetly a dialogue.

ALASTAIR FORSYTH
Eye, Suffolk

People's palace

Sir: John Walsh's article "A whiff of the secret state in a suburb" (15 March) is an excellent advert for the Crystal Palace Campaign's "war" against the rebuilding on the site of the old Crystal Palace, but there is another side to this story, involving the Single Regeneration Budget grant for the small parts of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark converging at the top of the hill.

The SRB grant will improve the area, negated by all the councils, and offer people employment training, support for local community groups and practical help for small businesses.

Development of the fenced-off, dangerous mass of rubble alongside Crystal Palace Parade will remove the seedy atmosphere and give a glass entertainment centre for South London. The building will not "dominate the skyline"; it will be invisible to most of the residents. This is not a green site; it is a mass of building foundations on a dump shamefully neglected for 60 years.

The arrogance of the 1,500 members of the Crystal Palace Campaign is breathtaking - "so much professional in style ... and we're still not winning". There are 250,000 people in the Single Regeneration Budget area.

In its heyday the Crystal Palace was known all over the English-speaking world for its brass-band festivals, its concerts, its cage-bird shows, its educational exhibitions, its football - ordinary Victorian and Edwardian events in the pleasure park. I hope it can be used again as a leisure complex and pleasure park.

I have a vested interest because my great-grandfather was a trustee of the Crystal Palace and my family always said it was built in 1936 to celebrate my arrival.

PAT PALMER
Beckenham, Kent

Family values

Sir: I agree with Natasha Walter (Comment, 15 March) that a society which regards Kim Sparrow's efforts to bring up her daughter as less productive than, say, selling double glazing, is in a bad way. This is not simply a feminist issue but illustrates a deeper problem.

Families, while necessary to the world of business, are not an integral part of it. Workers must be fed, washed and rested to work again and a new generation of workers must be reared and trained. This domestic work is necessary for the accumulation of capital but in itself produces no

profit and individual firms have no direct interest in paying for it.

The mass entry of women into the job market on equal terms with men has served to weaken the unions and lower the price of labour. To point this out renders one vulnerable, who, save chauvinists - and losers - can object to equality of competition?

Once children enter the picture however the price of a market society becomes clear: I am resolved to avoid entering a contest with women for most-favoured-victim status, but it is worth noting that Mr Brown and New Labour have nothing to offer men as fathers. Unpaid parental leave is useless because even if men could afford to take it they fear losing their job or promotion to whoever is willing to work a more insane number of hours.

If sexual equality is to mean anything more than a politically correct excuse for the exploitation of labour we must put a price on "family values".

ROBERT CLAYTON
Highter Fozdale, Isle of Man

Sir: Caroline Millar (letter, 16 March) could not make the point better - not all mothers wish to work outside the home while their children are small. Neither do I, though I am a father, not a mother.

Thank God for my partner, who works some of the time so that I can look after our daughter some of the time. Thank God that our earnings and career prospects are similar so that economics does not force one of us into full-time work and the other out of work altogether. Thank God that our jobs welcome flexible hours, part-time and working from home. Thank God for grandparents who help out in any tight squeeze.

Because my wife's opportunity in the workplace is the same as mine, my opportunity to participate in childcare is the same as hers. This is the future. The main winner is our daughter, who gets two close parental bonds.

DUNCAN FISHER
Crickhowell, Powys

School tragedy

Sir: While at school, considerable numbers of children play an extremely dangerous game, strangling each other to the point of unconsciousness. This behaviour continues undetected by the teachers responsible for their care and unchecked over a long period. One of the children dies (report, 17 March).

The coroner finds it "difficult to criticise" the school, and the responsible senior member of staff accepts that it is beyond him to put a stop to these and similar activities. There are no screaming headlines about the dangers to our children from uncontrolled games "behind the bike sheds", no ministerial interviews on the early evening news telecasts promising a complete shake-up of out-of-classroom supervision practices, no demands for an independent inquiry of any kind. The child is dead, and as the coroner remarked, "there is only so much you can do."

This is very strange. There ought to be some kind of public outcry. No, hang on. All this was at Eton, one of the great public schools, not a state comprehensive school at all! Well, that's all right then.

RON SONNET
Southsea, Hampshire

Chicken legs

Sir: I can only assume that fruit flies are yukky already as the yuk factor was not heard as a response to experiments some years ago that caused legs to grow where a fly's eyes should have been. Contrast the outcry over the "sinister" four-legged chicken (letter, 18 March).

Is confusion over chickens being a food source and the panic over GM foods obscuring what might have been intended as basic work in cell development, providing an insight into cancer growth? Somewhere along the way the chain of the scientist's duty to explain, the science journalist's obligation to report clearly, and the public's requirement to gain a basic understanding of science has seemingly broken over this issue.

MARY TREGLOWN
*The Open University
 Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire*

Sir: Gerald Durrell writes in *My Family and Other Animals* that among his collection in Corfu, preserved in methylated spirits, was a four-legged chicken. This would have been in the late 1930s. Has Greece once more led the world?

MICKY GWILLIAM
London SW1

Choosing chaos

Sir: Gillian Shephard, the shadow Transport Secretary, has called for children to walk or cycle to school in order to reduce the levels of traffic on the roads (report, 16 March). What a great idea - if only their schools were within walking or cycling distance.

The grant-maintained schools and parents' school choice, implemented by the Tories, has produced a shambles whereby children cannot attend their local schools. Parents in Bishop Stortford are now having to send their children to a school in Stansted, Essex, up to nine miles away, because all the local schools are full of children from outside the town. One child actually lives next door to his local school but will have to be transported to Stansted.

JOHN R E BELL
Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire

Pinned down

Sir: Nicholas Lizard (Irritations of Modern Life, 17 March) is guilty of another irritation when he refers to a person's "PIN number". "PIN" is stands for "personal identification number", so "PIN number" stands for "personal identification number". This irritant can also be seen in such usages as "AC current" ("alternating current current") and "laser light" ("light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation light").

A J EDWARDS
Tortola, British Virgin Islands

Sick parrots, gay dogs and the king of PR men

I WENT up to London the other day to see the Monet exhibition - or, more accurately, to see the queues for the Monet exhibition - but before I could even get there, who should I bump into but my old friend Adrian Wardour-Street, the king of public relations. Or, if Max Clifford should happen to read this, the heir apparent, at least, to public relations.

We merged into a little authentic coffee bar, and Adrian asked me if I wanted a "latte".

"What's that?" I said.
 "I'm not entirely sure, but everyone's asking for it these days, so I do as well. *Due latte, per favore*. So, how's tricks?"

"Fine," I said. "And you?"
 Always lead the conversation back to Adrian, that's my motto. That way, he never gets bored.

"Working in television this week," he said. "Outside my usual orbit, but I'm doing a favour for a friend who needs some PR doing for a new programme he and the BBC have cooked up together. He has a small freelance TV company that has persuaded the BBC to let them make a trend-setting, mould-breaking series for them, on the grounds that they have come up with an idea that nobody has ever thought of."

"Impossible," I said. "All ideas have been done before."
 "That is true," said Adrian, "but sometimes people come up with a combination of two ideas that has never been tried before. My friend has come up with just such a combination: sex and animals."

"On the contrary," I said. "David Attenborough's already done all

that. He has been through the mating patterns of every possible living species."

"Not sex and nature," said Adrian. "I'm talking about sex and animals. That's different. You know that animal programmes are very popular on TV at the moment? *Animal Hospital* etc? All those poor ailing pets who get well on the spot for fear of being touched by Rolf Harris's rough Australian hands? And you know that homosexual programmes and characters are also very big right now? *Queer as Folk*, for one. And what about that bloke from *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme?*"

"Yes, yes, yes..."
 "My mate is combining the two ideas in a new programme about homosexual dogs. Bound to be a mass sensation."

programme called *Gay Dogs and Englishmen*."

"Shouldn't that strictly be *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*?"

"Yeah, but that title's already taken - they're using it for another programme about the British and rabies."

I thought about it a moment. "You're not seriously trying to tell me that the BBC hopes to boost its audience figures by attracting homosexual dogs?"

"Of course not. You don't really think it's sick parrots that watch Rolf Harris, do you?"

I paused again. "Do you think that there really are such things as homosexual dogs, Adrian?"

"Of course there are. Why else do you think people would talk about 'gay dogs'?"

"I don't think homosexuality is found much in nature."

"Dogs don't operate in nature,

son. They operate in man's environment and they pick up all man's strange little ways. Ever seen two male dogs mounting each other?"

"Course you have. Why do you think they do it? Because they like it, of course!"

"Yeah, but that title's already taken - they're using it for another programme about the British and rabies."

I thought about it a moment.

"You're not seriously trying to tell me that the BBC hopes to boost its audience figures by attracting homosexual dogs?"

"Of course not. You don't really think it's sick parrots that watch Rolf Harris, do you?"

I paused again.

"Do you think that there really

are such things as homosexual dogs, Adrian?"

"Of course there are. Why else do you think people would talk about 'gay dogs'?"

see him. It's cross-genre programmes they're after. Cross-genre is the new buzz word."

"What does cross-genre mean?"

"Oh, it means doing one programme in the style of another. It's what the BBC does when it doesn't know what the hell it wants. It means doing cookery as a quiz show... or a really serious documentary on something quite trivial, like the history of the drawing pin... or doing apparently quite serious programmes about homophobia in dogs."

"Only thing is, we're not sure if the public is quite ready for it, and we'll have to start spreading the word, so if you could mention it in your column somewhere, old boy, just start preparing the ground..."

"Consider it done, Adrian chum," I said.



MILES KINGTON

'Ever seen two male dogs mounting each other? Course you have. Why do you think they do it?'

"They'll never let him do it." "They've already commissioned him. Series of six half-hours. New

CH 1999

PANDORA

FRESH OUT of rehab, Kate Moss is spoiling for a fight with her rival mamequin Claudia Schiffer. Croydon's top poster girl this week slammed Schiffer's alleged romance with the illusionist David Copperfield as "phoney and tasteless". Modelists believe Moss's sniping springs from a recent Schiffer interview in which she slagged off a "clique" of younger models who "played too hard" at the expense of their careers. Claudia named Kate as prime offender. We've not heard the last of this.

QUIET PLEASE, big brains at work: it takes an American PC operator four separate keystrokes to create the new crossed-E symbol for the euro.

THE PUBLIC RECORDS Office recently unsealed material revealing Field Marshall Montgomery's robustly right-wing attitude to colonial independence - African subjects were all "savages", was the old soldier's considered verdict. The Daily Telegraph's news reporter assigned to cover this story was scooped and, as he tremulously awaited a bollocking, the summons to the editor's office arrived. It was not that the hapless hack had omitted to file on Monty's uncompromising views. The whole point, Charles Moore explained, was that Montgomery was a great visionary. As the rest of us count the days until the 21st century (2001) it's reassuring to see Mr Moore still gamely struggling to get to grips with the 20th.

CHATHAM HOUSE (aka the Royal Institute for International Affairs) hosts a timely talk tonight: Sir Leon Brittan is scheduled to speak on "Corruption as a Threat to World Trade".

CELEBRITY NIGHT SCHOOL - another public service from Pandora. Looking for a glamorous life? Want to get paid for showing people round your lovely shed? Look and learn with a Brazilian lingerie model, Luciana Morad (pictured). The 28-year-old Morad met Mick Jagger at a concert in Rio last summer, and rumours swirled this year that she's carrying Lippy Mick's luvvie baby. But Morad has refused to kiss n'tell, or even publicly confirm whether Jagger's the shooter - although her mum and friends insist he's the man.

Apparently Morad plans a DNA test when the baby's born, to determine paternity.



PETER MANDELSON fell off a table while speechifying for his former assistant Benji Wegg-Prosser this week. The party was held at Marco Pierre White's bar - is this the first time Mandy has gone down on the Titanic?

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Until then she "doesn't intend to take action against Jagger or anyone else". Smart woman.

PROSTITUTION CONTRIBUTES £1.2bn annually to the economy, according to *Marketing Week*. Does that mean it's more or less screwed than we thought?

STELLA McCARTNEY was spotted "nuzzling" the rock lothario Lenny Kravitz at a Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame party this week. The duo then ducked into a hotel bathroom together for a few minutes.

"It wasn't long enough for an assignation," one eye-witness says, "but one wonders what they were doing."

THE PUBLIC RECORDS Office recently unsealed material revealing Field Marshall Montgomery's robustly right-wing attitude to colonial independence - African subjects were all "savages", was the old soldier's considered verdict. The Daily Telegraph's news reporter assigned to cover this story was scooped and, as he tremulously awaited a bollocking, the summons to the editor's office arrived. It was not that the hapless hack had omitted to file on Monty's uncompromising views. The whole point, Charles Moore explained, was that Montgomery was a great visionary. As the rest of us count the days until the 21st century (2001) it's reassuring to see Mr Moore still gamely struggling to get to grips with the 20th.

IT IS extraordinary that devolution is almost upon us and there has hardly been any meaningful national debate - and I mean a national debate - on the biggest constitutional changes in this country since Britain joined the European Community in January 1973. For a "people's government", this is inexcusable.

Last week, Oxford University Press organised a debate on devolution in a hall packed with socialists, designer politicos and large numbers of English nationalists who feel inconsolably let down, not by what is happening but because they have never been asked what they think about it. I felt for them, because that is exactly how most black and Asian Britons are responding to the developments.

The debate was chaired by the constitutional expert Robert Hazell and included Labour's Ron Davies, the Scottish National Party's home affairs spokesperson Roseanna Cunningham, and the professor of political science at the London School of Economics, Brendan O'Leary.

It became clear during the course of this interesting but uncomfortable event that real argument has been eschewed by many in favour of a warm, cutish loyalty to the cause. These people display a blinding clarity which many of us simply cannot share.

Talk of devolution, regional autonomy and decentralisation is built on the bogus notion that Great Britain consists of four nations-in-waiting all ready to be released from captivity under Westminster New Again. Britain will be made up of these provinces re-engaging in a grown-up way to make a modern nation of willing partners. There will be no real break-up of the kingdom, enthusiasts believe. This vision has been promoted so successfully that to question the idea relegates you to

the airless, tight space occupied by the constitutional expert Robert Hazell and included Labour's Ron Davies, the Scottish National Party's home affairs spokesperson Roseanna Cunningham, and the professor of political science at the London School of Economics, Brendan O'Leary.

We are alarmed at the way powerful words such as "statehood", "nationally", "ethnicity", "sovereignty", "race" and "culture" are being used for their own purposes by devolutionists. We resent the way this country is now described as consisting of "four nations" in fact it is one nation made up of more than 70 ethnically identifiable communities.

How do you define a nation within a nation? Are we talking territory?

It is language, accent or a common religion? Are we describing ancestral connections that make Michael Aspel still a northerner and Melvyn Bragg always a chap from Cumbria?

Is this a promotion of dangerous beliefs about a pure identity? Does it exclude "newcomers"? Will devolution make a new mini-nation which is inclusive and diverse within a larger bloc that is even more so? An

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Professor Robert Zachary

ROBERT ZACHARY was a leading figure in that small group of surgeons whose existence became possible by the creation of the National Health Service. Within one generation they revolutionised surgery for the newborn and young child. Of these surgeons, Zachary will be remembered as one around whom circulated a dilemma that is still with us, concerning the right to life of infants with treatable, very severe, congenital deformities.

Before the National Health Service was established in the late Forties, surgeons were "honorary" in teaching hospitals and earned their livelihood in private work; in the provinces there was no money in child surgery. A system had developed where trainee surgeons became attached to children's hospitals and "learned to cut" there. When a vacancy occurred in an adult hospital, they applied for it, and if successful, were transferred, leaving the children's hospital free to take on a new trainee. Thus adult surgeons considered themselves to be competent with children and looked on all of the staff at the children's hospital as trainees and not full specialists.

This was the general situation at the Sheffield Children's Hospital when Zachary was appointed as its first full-time surgeon in 1947. The surgical mortality was high, there was little status, and laboratory support was scanty. Zachary threw himself into the work with enthusiasm. He was a small man with a severe scoliosis, but with great intelligence, charm, drive and energy. He was a superb actor and well above average on the dance floor. He had a high level of charisma, overcame many problems and carried all before him.

Within 10 years he had established Sheffield as an important centre for children's surgery. In 1953 he was a prime mover in setting up the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, which has become the premier international society in this field. He went on to become President of the association in 1962-63, and was a founder member of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida (and Chairman, 1968-71).

His experience in neuro-spiral research, and his personal experience of congenital deformities involving the spine, focused his attention on spina bifida and on the possibility of preventing deformities rather than adopting the traditional "wait-and-see" regime. With his clinical colleagues, the orthopaedic surgeon John Sharrard and the paediatrician John Lorber, Zachary formed an investigative team treating newborns with spina bifida as medical emergencies and operated as soon as possible after birth.

Some of the results were striking, creating world-wide interest, and within a few years Sheffield had become an international centre for the treatment of this condition. The hospital became flooded with patients. Parents who had infants with spina bifida moved jobs to Sheffield to obtain what was then a unique combined medical and surgical service. Many children with the disease who would have died in infancy sur-

vived. Sheffield had to open special schools to look after these children and the cost of care escalated. Where would all this end? The question of "quality of life" arose.

Classical readers will recall that the codicis, the staff of Asclepius-Hermes, has two intertwined and controlled snakes. These were the fighting snakes of knowledge and wisdom, science and humanism. Zachary was an active Roman Catholic, Knight Commander of St Gregory with Star, and believed that his duty was to do all that he could for any child. He had more faith in moral than statistical truths; thus when the question arose concerning the selection of babies at birth whose outlook was so poor

'In my own small way I feel a common bond with all those who have spina bifida when I say, "We who were born with a deformed spine...'"



he had close contacts all over the world and was a popular speaker. His acting skills were combined with linguistic ones and he always attempted to give a lecture in the home language of any country he visited - and he frequently visited countries in eastern Europe, Poland and Russia. The hospital in Sheffield where he did all of the paediatric surgery for over 10 years now needs four full-time surgeons. Such men as Bob Zachary, and his great friend and rival at Liverpool, Peter Richam, were the giants of an era.

Zachary was born in Leeds in 1913 and received his schooling at the Jesuit-run St Michael's College. Though he trained as a pharmacist, he subsequently decided to study medicine and graduated from Leeds University in 1940 with first class honours and the Gold Medal, gaining prizes in both surgery and clinical medicine. From the outset he knew that he wished to be a surgeon and went directly to the department of anatomy to get his "Primary" exams. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1943.

Working at Leeds Royal Infirmary with the professor of surgery, he met his future wife, Faith, a theatre sister. He then went to the Surgical Research Unit at Oxford University under Professor Herbert Seddon, initially working with the Spanish surgeon Joseph Trueta, who during the Spanish Civil War had revolutionised the treatment of wounds.

Zachary's spinal deformity excluded him from the armed forces and he spent the war years carrying out research in the Peripheral Nerve Injury Unit at Oxford, where he made several original contributions. In 1944 he was elected Honorary Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons for research on orthopaedics. By this time, Zachary had decided that he wanted to be a children's surgeon, so in 1945 he went to the United States to work under Dr Frank Ingham at the Boston Children's Hospital, in Massachusetts, which was at that time the leading children's unit in the world. It was during the final few months of this Nuffield fellowship that Zachary was appointed in 1947 to the Sheffield Children's Hospital.

When Bob Zachary retired in 1978, he left Sheffield and started a new life in Australia and later Canada. His second wife, Winifred, died in 1990, but he is survived by his third wife, Janetta, and by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage, all of whom are doctors.

At one time he wrote an autobiography that was never published, and its final sentence to a great extent sums up his life: "In my own small way I feel a common bond with all those who have spina bifida when I say, 'We who were born with a deformed spine...'"

JOHN L. EMBRY

Robert Bransby Zachary, paediatric surgeon: born Leeds 1 March 1913; Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Sheffield Children's Hospital 1947-76; Professor Associate in Paediatric Surgery, Sheffield University 1976-78 (Emeritus); three times married (two sons, one daughter); died St Albans, Newfoundland 1 February 1999.

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Carr had concentrated on landscape, with Cézanne and Claude Lorraine as particular models. Tonks told Carr, "If you look at any good landscape painters they're also competent draughtsmen. You must learn to draw the figure" and this he did. Carr's son-in-law, the painter Martin MacKeown, remembers him as "an incredibly perfect draughtsman".

Carr's school was Oundle, which he disliked, although he improved his art and learned to shoot horses, a useful accomplishment for a man who was at heart a countryman. He was fortunate in having as art masters E.M. O'Rourke Dickey, a fellow Ulsterman and now an unjustly forgotten artist, and a fine portraitist, Christopher Perkins.

Carr left Oundle in 1926 and with Perkins's family spent three weeks at Cassis, in the South of France. Carr and another artist exhibited their sketches in the hotel. Only one was sold - by Carr - to a discriminating member of the Bensusan-Buit family, related to the French Pissarro dynasty by marriage.

Encouraged by the £10 sale, Carr applied to the Slade School of Fine Art in London. From 1927 to 1929 his

teachers included Henry Tonks and Philip Wilson Steer. Among fellow students were two to-be-famous Ulster artists, the sculptor E.P. McWilliam and John Luke, later a teacher at Belfast College of Art.

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Next, Carr's family funded six months in Italy for him, where he stayed with Aubrey Waterfield in his medieval castle at Settimiano, outside Florence. Carr visited Tatti, home of the Renaissance expert Bernard Berenson. He later claimed that when Berenson was away the young people used an old panel by Duccio as a dartboard.

Back in London, Carr rejoined old Slade friends, showing with such artists as Graham Bell, William Coldstream, Lawrence Gowing, Rodrigo Moynihan, Claude Rogers and

Tom Carr



Carr: 'Not as hard as cutting the grass'

Geoffrey Tibble. This was a time of experiment. When the Objective Abstractionists held their show at Zwemmer's Gallery in London in 1934, Carr - essentially a realist - was rather oddly slotted in. When he returned to live in Northern Ireland, Carr found a new use for more way-out pictures from that period. This artist, who reckoned a lot of abstract art "rubbish", said that they

had been very useful "for re-roofing my beehives".

Carr found association with the Euston Road School of painting, started by Coldstream, Pasmore and Roberts in 1937, more sympathetic. Like his friend Anthony Devas, another excellent portraitist, he was an associate of this group of quiet objective realists.

Settling in Newcastle, Co Down, in 1939, Carr slowly built a reputation. He taught at a girls' school and at Belfast College of Art, but mainly concentrated on becoming a prolific, widely shown painter. Typical subjects were people on benches, by the seaside, children playing, dogs and cats commonly in evidence, all this incidental to the farms, coastline and the Mourne Mountains. From 1955 he lived in Belfast.

Carr's work was familiar at the Royal Academy, and at bodies of which he was a member: the Royal Ulster Academy, the New English Art Club, the Royal Watercolour Society and, as an honorary member, the Royal Hibernian Academy. In 1991 he gained an honorary doctorate from Queen's University, was

appointed MBE in 1974, and OBE in 1982 for services to art in Ulster.

When his wife died in 1985, Carr joined his daughter Ann and her husband in Bitteringham, Norfolk. Carr was well into his eighties, but this was not retirement. He responded anew to the East Anglian countryside, giving his pictures a fresh lease. To keep himself fit to paint, he began walking a mile before lunch, another before supper; otherwise he "would drop dead". Ultimately, he decided that if he kept up the walking it would sap his energy to paint.

Given Tom Carr's impressive background, his younger brother Sam, the chairman of the publishing firm B.T. Batsford and a keen picture collector, would occasionally seek his advice. It was not infallible. Which should Sam sell, he asked Tom, a Sickert or a Bonnard? Tom ruefully recalled the day when he had advised, "Oh, I should sell the Bonnard!"

DAVID BRUCKMAN

Thomas James Carr, painter: born Belfast 21 September 1905; married 1934 Stella Robbins (died 1995); three daughters; died Norwich 17 February 1999.

Lulu Belle Wiseman

LULU BELLE Wiseman was one half of "The Sweethearts of Country Music". She and her husband Scotty were, during their heyday, perhaps the most popular husband-and-wife team within the genre, and were long-time stars of the influential Chicago-based WLS radio show *National Barn Dance*.

She was born Myrtle Eleanor Cooper in North Carolina in 1913 and was already performing professionally whilst still in her teens. In 1932 she auditioned for the *National Barn Dance*, gaining a solo spot and a new stage name of Lulu Belle.

National Barn Dance was by the Thirties the most widely listened-to hillbilly programme in the United States, with weekly audiences approaching 20 million. It was to prove a springboard to success for several notable figures, among them the bass-player Red Foley. He and Lulu Belle began to perform as a duo, known as Lulu Belle and Burthead.

In 1934, Scotty Wiseman joined the *Barn Dance* cast. A proficient banjo and guitar picker, singer and songwriter, "Skyline Scotty" - so named because he was raised in Asheville, North Carolina, "Land of the Skies" - had begun to perform whilst studying to become a teacher. He and Lulu Belle hit it off immediately and, much to the delight of the station's managers, married in December that year (though some irate fans wrote in complaining that Scotty had stolen Red's girl).

The Wisemans' smooth style and sunny presence rapidly made them one of the show's biggest draws; a popularity they capitalised on with a series of low-budget movies including *Hi, Neighbour* (1940), *Country Fair* (1941) and, with Roy Rogers, *Shine On Harvest Moon* (1938).

They cut a series of classic records over the years for Vocalion, Okeh, Bluebird, Tritone, Mercury and Starday, many of them written and arranged by Scotty. In addition to hits such as "Remember Me", "Brown Mountain Light", "Whippoorwill Time" and "Does Your Spearman Lose Its Flavor on the Bed Post Overnight", later successfully covered and adapted by Lonnie Donegan, two Scotty Wiseman tunes have become standards: "Mountain Dew", a reworking of a Bascombe Larnar Lumsford tune, and "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You", which has been covered numerous times, notably by Bing Crosby and Jim Reeves.

For eight years from 1949, Lulu Belle and Scotty hosted their own daily television programme on the Chicago station WNBQ. In 1958 they surprised their fans by virtually quitting music and moving back to North Carolina. Although three albums were cut for Starday, *The Sweethearts of Country Music* (1963), *Down Memory Lane* (1964) and *Sweethearts Still* (1965), their performing days were all but over. He began to teach whilst she became involved in local politics, eventually serving in the state legislature. Scotty Wiseman died following a heart attack in 1981; Lulu Belle remarried and in 1986 cut an album, *Snickers and Tender Memories*.

PAUL WADEY

Myrtle Eleanor (Lulu Belle) Cooper, singer: born Boone, North Carolina 24 December 1913; married 1934 Scotty Wiseman (died 1981); 1983 Ernest Stamey; died 8 February 1999.

Lowell Fulson

RODNEY GIESLER

Peter Bernard Augustin de Normanville, documentary film-maker: born London 29 June 1922; married 1950 Sarah Erukari (two daughters); died London 7 March 1999.

PETER DE NORMANVILLE began his career as a documentary filmmaker after the Second World War with the Shell Film Unit.

The unit had been formed by Edgar Anstey in the 1930s; with John Grierson's GPO Film Unit, it became a distinguished part of the British documentary movement. Although Shell used the film unit as a promotional tool, the accepted philosophy taught to all its young directors was not to make a film about its products, but about the scientific principles behind those products. The films were thus at once entertaining and impartially educational, and attracted wide audiences. The sponsor maintained its presence by its logo on the end of each film.

This approach was exemplified by de Normanville's first major film, *High Speed Flight* (1956; the first of a three-part series). In the early 1950s supersonic flight was only possible for a few seconds in a precarious dive. The RAF asked Shell to produce a film to explain the hazards and problems of flying to its pilots. Using the optical process known as the Schlieren technique, de Normanville showed in vivid colours the way shock waves built up on an aircraft's wings and tail surfaces as it flew through the sound barrier. Hundreds of copies of the film were sold to the world's air forces, and it won numerous prizes.

De Normanville saw a lot of training films while he was in the RAF and became attracted to the idea of making films himself. In 1946 he was accepted by the Shell Film Unit, and appointed assistant to Sarah Erukari, a young Indian film-maker. Later they married.

He followed *High Speed Flight*, in the late 1950s, with *Forming of Metals*, an expositional film that transformed a steel mill into a symphony of light and movement, and *Frontiers of Friction*, which spiced an otherwise dull physical phenomenon with shots of a bartender sliding glasses of whisky down the counter to customers in a western saloon.

After 15 years at Shell, de Normanville left to go freelance, and turned his scientific mind and interpretive skills to other industries. Morgan Crucible made crucibles out of jet black carbon to hold molten metals. A less promising film image would be hard to imagine. So de Normanville made a study about carbon itself (*Carbon*, 1956): the atom of life, the atom of the diamond, the atom of graphite.

For IBM he made *Man and Computer: a perspective* (1967) - a film on computing that didn't show a single computer. He told his client that computers were "boring boxes", and with the help of animation and visual analogy explained what went on inside them. The technique paid off. The film's life lasted several years since there was no product in it to date.

His wife meantime had been pursuing a successful career of her own, and they shared the direction of a

number of films, notably *Living City* (1975), a portrait of Calcutta, and a series of films on leprosy.

De Normanville's work ranged over many countries and many subjects; he made films on oil pipelines in Alaska and India; on world economic problems for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; on developments in microbiology interpreted by six Nobel prize-winners; on the railway works at Swindon; on the nature of flight for Lucas Industries. He explained the Critical Path management technique developed for the American Polaris submarine programme by showing how it could be applied to the building of a filling station.

He was the first to admit that none of his ideas would ever have reached the screen without the ingenuity, patience and applied imagination of some of the finest cameramen in the business, among them Sidney Beale, Ronnie Whitehouse, Wolfgang Suschitzky and Arthur Wooster.

His final film was for Rolls-Royce

to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first flight of Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine. By that time, however, the short-term, impatient age of the video cassette had arrived, and the good times of documentary film were over. He and his wife both retired from film and turned their talents to buying and selling antiques. But to the end Peter de Normanville retained his enthusiasm for the world of science, and his pushkin sense of humour.

FOR IBM he made *Man and Computer: a perspective* (1967) - a film on computing that didn't show a single computer. He told his client that computers were "boring boxes", and with the help of animation and visual analogy explained what went on inside them. The technique paid off. The film's life lasted several years since there was no product in it to date.

Given Tom Carr's impressive background, his younger brother Sam, the chairman of the publishing firm B.T. Batsford and a keen picture collector, would occasionally seek his advice. It was not infallible. Which should Sam sell, he asked Tom, a Sickert or a Bonnard? Tom ruefully recalled the day when he had advised,

"Oh, I should sell the Bonnard!"

DAVID BRUCKMAN

THOMAS JAMES CARR, painter: born Belfast 21 September 1905; married 1934 Stella Robbins (died 1995); three daughters; died Norwich 17 February 1999.

IN JONATHAN KEATES'S article about Handel on the *Independent* arts pages (16 March), he remarks, in reference to misperceptions of the relative merits of Bach and Handel, "one German baroque composer in a big white wig looks very like another", writes Nick Kimberley. Something similar seems to have applied when it comes to putting a picture with the otherwise generous obituary about Lowell Fulson (16 March), by Paul Trynka: the moody, bespectacled hunk with fury collar and cuffs is, in fact, David Ruffin of the Temptations, not Fulson.

Nevertheless, it's good to see serious space devoted to an underrated bluesman. One detail in the obituary does not ring true: it was not Fulson's success with "Reconsider Baby" that made his band member Ray Charles turn solo. Fulson had a hit with "Reconsider Baby" in 1954, by which time Charles was long gone from his band and already making a big name for himself at Atlantic. And it's a slight shame that Trynka doesn't mention Fulson's 1968 recording of the Beatles' "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?", a track that turned on its head the meaningless question "Can white men sing the blues?" In this case, Fulson sang white rock better than most white practitioners.

* We apologise for the error with the illustration, which was due to a misidentification by the picture agency.

Should baby suck a dummy?

Sheila's baby cries all the time, and is only comforted by a dummy. But her mother-in-law says it'll deform the baby's teeth, her husband says it looks awful, and Sheila herself has heard that dummies are a health hazard. What should she do?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

Fashions in bringing up babies change like hemlines. In 1910 Sir Truby King recommended that to stop thumb-sucking, the best plan was to put the babies' arms in splints of corrugated cardboard. In 1970 a Mrs Frankenburg wrote that the "continuous sucker of a dummy is fortunate if he does not become a chain-smoker, a drunkard or a drug-addict". (Personally I would have thought it was the other way round, that those who don't have things to suck on need sucky things in later life.) In 1975 Dr Hugh Jolly said he would prefer a baby who requires extra sucking to do it the natural way - "by sucking his thumb". These days most baby books are perfectly easy about dummies, and thumb-sucking. But the hang-up-to-date research on dummies is confusing. It shows that the sucking promotes more saliva, which prevents plaque building up, and that there's no problem with teeth as long as children stop sucking dummies before six years old. Other research shows that dummy-suckers tended to have more infections than other babies, but

needless to say no one has sorted out whether this is because dummies tend to be used in families where mothers are young, broke and poorly educated, and smoke.

So there you have it. Sheila's mind is probably boggling.

But there's a bigger issue here, about taking advice when you're bringing up children. It seems to me that Sheila knows perfectly what's right for her baby. The dummy soothes it and comforts it. But her intuitive motherly feelings have been undermined by two people who clearly don't have the baby's emotional interests at heart.

First, her mother-in-law, who can hardly know the baby as well as Sheila and who seems more concerned with the baby's looks than with its emotional welfare. Even if the teeth theory were true, which it isn't, better a buck-toothed baby full of beans than a perfect misery with a perfect mouth. Second, Sheila's husband, who seems to have inherited his mother's obsession with looks, says that dummies look awful. Most face-furniture does. But he surely wouldn't suggest his child stop wearing glasses, if it had to later just on the grounds of vanity? I suspect class comes into all this. My mother never

"Expert advice will not aid a parent unless he has the appropriate inner experiences," wrote the child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim. "Such advice may even prevent him from discovering the causes of his child's difficulties, and in the process discovering things about his own life and being which bring him that much closer to his child and the child to him. The right inner experience... will reveal how superficial and impersonal even the best advice is when applied to a complex situation caused by highly personal feelings."

DILEMMAS WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



A dummy is the answer. Before I had my first baby, I too despised the "common" dummy. However, within two weeks of putting my bundle of joy on the breast every two hours, I had succumbed.

Yes, they do look awful, but so do new mums with bags under their eyes and nursing bras left undone to save time.

Two babies later I was still converted. Teeth are straight, unlike mine and my brother's, (our mother looked down on dummies, so we sucked thumb and forefinger respectively). You can throw away a dummy when a baby is 18 months old; unfortunately you cannot throw away thumbs, and they can stay planted into the teens.

FIONA CARRIVICK
Isleworth, Middlesex

They're better than thumbs. I sucked my thumb until I was about 13 or 14, and found it extraordinarily hard to break the habit - my thumb, after all, was on the end of my hand, and always accessible, so I often sucked it without being even conscious of my actions. I am now, at 42, still undergoing dental treatment (private and expensive) to put right dental defects.

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Just sterilise it! I understand that the latest advice is that thumb-sucking is worse for teeth than a dummy, and that neither is a disaster as long as it doesn't continue for too long. Properly sterilised, a dummy is no worse and indeed a good deal better than most other things that will find their way into your baby's mouth.

KIM MOLNAR
Preston, Lancashire

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My girlfriend read a book on relationships and we decided to be more honest with each other. I told her about two girls I had had long affairs with and loved, in the past. She told me she still felt a bit in love with her old boyfriend, which really upset me. She also said she didn't think I had a sense of humour. I told her that although I loved her, I wished she'd lose weight. Obviously we told each other good things as well, but my girlfriend is still hurt about my past affairs. Yours sincerely, Dennis

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E1 4SDL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmase@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet.

POETIC LICENCE

THE 'EASY' DIVORCE SKETCH
BY MARTIN NEWELL

In a bid to put "family values" firmly back on the Tory agenda, William Hague has said that couples should be made to wait longer before they are allowed to divorce. He claims that divorce is too easy.



Her lawyers said to write it down
The murther curse, a fleeting frown
Refusal to co-operate
If reconstrued might lend some weight
As proof in court. Effective? Rather
Unfitness as the children's father.
The means become the end alone
And scarified upon that stone
All money time and sanity
To please this great god, Custody.

His lawyer: Reassuring. Posh.
Did sod all good. Still took the dosh.
Not infidelity. As such.
They fought? Of course. She spent too much.
The house, the kids, the car... the lot.
His drinking. That began the rot.
"Don't shout!" Which prompted one attack.
"I've just got in... she's on my back.
The kids are crying. It's hurling plates.
That's it. On sofa. Round me mate's."

Could hardly saw the house in half?
Could he? Reason with her? Laugh?
Down the pub, his mates had said:
"She's got you now mate." Better dead
Than join the Sunday Father Squad.
End up some bitter, sad old sod.
The kids collected from her door
One frantic weekend out of four
And shouted at, when one was sick:
"I SAID not many SWEETS. You THICK!"

She for her part, knackered, lonely.
Sometimes got out. Weekends only.
Men seemed slightly wary now
More fish in sea, less bites somehow.
They didn't mind that she'd been wed.
They found out she'd got kids, they fled.
The maintenance? Well that was late.
Her mum said: "CSA. You wait."
And then the bastard wriggled free.
Just killed himself. Deliberately.

So you still want to send the kids to boarding school?

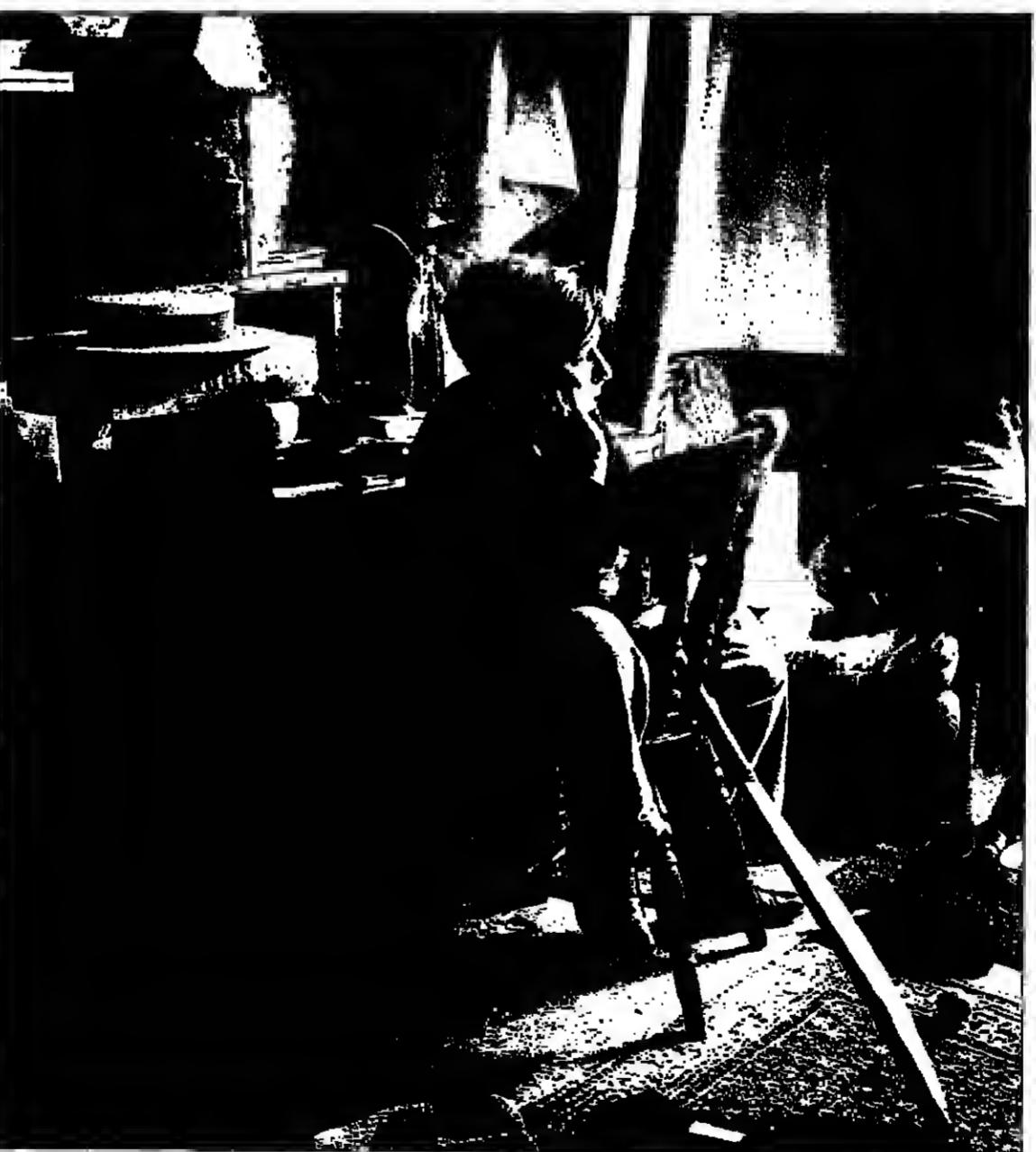
'Fainting' is not the only release from boredom in boarding schools. Nor is it new. By Jack O'Sullivan

He is in his forties now, but, for this ex-boarding school pupil, the memory of "fainting" is fresh. "You would go up and down like this, holding your breath," he demonstrates, bending his knees vigorously. "Then you would stand up and you would faint. Of course, someone was supposed to catch you when you fell over, but if they didn't you could bang your head. Fainting gave you a buzz."

At a now-closed Wiltshire boarding school, girls passed out using a different method. "You would hug someone until they fainted," recalls a former pupil. "It was consensual, and you got this momentary feeling of being out of control."

Indeed, fainting for fun is a practice with which even toddlers are only too familiar. My own two-year-old daughter loves to turn round and round ever faster in circles until she crashes to the ground either laughing or crying her head all of a spin.

Fainting is part of an ancient and enduring childhood culture, passed on



It's the combination of isolation and peer pressure that can lead to wild behaviour Hulton Getty

by young people to each other seemingly without reference to adults and somehow forgotten by grown-ups. Perhaps this explains why adults were apparently so shocked to hear of Nicholas Taylor's recent death at Eton. Nicholas, 15, had been playing the "fainting game", in which a dressing-gown cord was gradually tightened around a boy's neck to restrict the flow of oxygen to his brain. Normally, it was done by a group. "You would tap on your thigh," said one pupil at the inquest. "When you stopped tapping, it would signal the others to let go." The attraction, said another pupil, was that "it made you feel abnormal".

But Nicholas went one step further than his peers. He is believed to have attempted the thrill for himself by tying one end of the cord to the door of his room. He accidentally killed himself by asphyxiation. Death by misadventure was the coroner's verdict.

The tragedy has put the spotlight on other, often equally dangerous, practices undertaken within the confines of boarding schools, where the private world of children can create its own mad rituals.

It is not just a boys' thing. The fainting-through-hugging ex-schoolgirl recalls: "Apart from smoking, taking dope and drinking cider, a great favourite was spraying deodorant into a

plastic bag and inhaling it. The dizziness it produced was said to be very pleasant, although the price you paid was an unspeakable headache half-an-hour later. But people still did it because you could be amazingly bored stuck in an artificial environment."

Girls in other schools likewise have their moments of craziness. In 1994, girls at Roedean painted an 80-ft replica of Dorset's Cerne Abbas giant on their sports field the day before sports day. The same year, 51 fifth-formers from a girls' boarding school in Oxfordshire ran amok in the school grounds, hurling stink-bombs, paint and eggs. People were awoken a quarter of a mile away by the riot.

The peer pressure to do something

wild is particularly strong in boarding schools, says Mary MacLeod, of Childline, which will soon revive a special helpline service for boarders. "Young people in boarding schools spend an awful lot of time together. They are looking for more from each other, so that ups the ante. And because they don't have homes to go to in the evening, they don't get out of the situation. So a culture of risky behaviour can develop, particularly among boys proving their masculinity."

Sir Randolph Fiennes, the explorer,

is a good example. He found a way of becoming popular at Eton after experiencing initial misery. "I gathered together a group of boys who were also not great sportsmen and formed a sort of dangerous sports club," he recalls.

"The aim was to climb to the top of the highest school buildings at night. This took a certain ingenuity, because we were forbidden to go out at night, and I had to get out of the bedroom I

shared with 45 other boys and do it without being noticed."

The next hurdle was getting through the lighted streets to the target building, climbing up the outside and adorning the summit with some sort of marker. Then we had to get back into bed again without being detected." Fortunately for Sir Randolph, he never fell off a building.

He is not the only public figure to have engaged in bizarre and dangerous pranks at school. In his autobiography, General Sir Peter de la Billière describes how, while a pupil at Harrow, he took a .22 rifle from the school armoury and tried to shoot out the lights of a room full of celebrating pupils. "I rested the rifle on the railings of the teaching-block," he writes, "and took a couple of pot shots. For some reason I missed the hub."

worth remembering that boarding school pupils do not themselves know what some of their peers are up to.

"It was only after I left that I knew about the covert relationships that would have scandalised my school," says another former boarder. "I was totally unaware, although perhaps I should have realised from a review when a junior dressed up as a girl and an older boy played his lover."

Eton's hierarchy seems equally mystified to learn about the prevalence of "fainting". John Lewis, the head-teacher, says teachers have spoken "in the strongest terms" to pupils about the practice. But lecturing young boarders may not be the answer.

"School needs a system of pastoral care that involves the pupils themselves, says MacLeod. "It's not enough for instructions to come down from teachers. There is a gap between adults and young people, and we forget that at our peril. Young people have their own lives and will exclude adults. So it is extremely difficult to know what is going on. Young people must be encouraged to work with teachers to create a comfortable emotional environment. Hopefully, it will direct their energy in a safer direction."

Childline's freephone number is 0800 1111

Lulu
Belle
Wiseman

Leading from the front

Conducting takes up half Benjamin Zander's life. The rest is spent inspiring politicians, moguls, children. Anyone. By Louise Gray

It's an early morning seminar at the London Business School and the 60 students on the Sloane Fellowship MBA programme – a course designed for high-achievers, CEOs and decision-makers – looking go that notch higher – are singing "Happy Birthday". Pretty badly, too. It is a monotonous, half-throated sound and the birthday boy, a soberly suited student called Palat Achuthan, is standing on a chair at the front of a lecture hall, looking faintly embarrassed.

Benjamin Zander, the seminar leader, orchestral conductor and organiser of this unorthodox spectacle, is unimpressed. "You are the future leaders of the western world! Is that the best you can do? It's not to you; it's to YOU!" – and Zander throws his arms towards Palat. The class launches another salvo. "No, don't attack him! Do it with tenderness and love!"

And again the song is repeated. Zander gesturing to the object of the song and accentuating the phrases with conductory gestures. Within minutes, the once-tepid song has been transformed into a rousing chorus, sung with palpable feeling. Palat looks flushed and also very pleased. "This," says Zander, "is something he won't forget for a while."

Not indeed, will anyone else in the room. After 10 minutes, Zander has pulled these future (in Tom Wolfe's words) masters of the universe together into a group which acts effectively in concert. To emphasise his point, Zander rounds off the three-hour seminar by leading the entire class in "an incredibly loud and expressive performance of the 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's Ninth" sung, of course, in German.

It's no mean feat and yet it's one that Zander has been repeating weekly for the last decade, with groups as various as the US Army, NASA, blue chip corporations (last month in Arizona, he zapped 4,000 Pizza Hut managers in one sitting) and schools, including Eastside, an East End comprehensive in one of London's most deprived areas.

Zander has been rightly described as one of the most able communicators since Leonard Bernstein. The day after the performance described above, he addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos, attended by, among others, Tony Blair. Tonight he's back in London to conduct Mahler at the Royal Festival Hall, and tomorrow he'll speak to Lewisham Council's 800-strong housing department.

Now in his 60th year, the English-born Zander lives at a tempo many half his age would find exhausting, and at a breathtaking level of engagement. He began his career as a cellist before switching to conducting. He has made a significant mark as both educator – at the New England Conservatory, where he has taught for 35 years – and as conductor with the Boston Philharmonic, with a series of landmark recordings of Beethoven and Stravinsky. "Beethoven is, bless his heart, capable of speaking to everyone," he says, and to prove it, he always leads his audiences in the "Ode to Joy" – including the Eastside children, "who had never seen a grand piano, let alone an orchestra". His eyes shine. "The 'Ode to Joy' is not the European anthem," he says, "but a song for the possibility of the human being."



Benjamin Zander: described as one of the most able communicators since Bernstein

Conducting is a profession which has, Zander jokes, "a dictatorial image. It's the last bastion of totalitarianism." But one of its crucial skills is leadership, which is why the business community has taken Zander to their global bosom. Ten years ago, he was invited, in his capacity as professor of music at the New England Conservatory in Boston, to address the Young Presidents' Association.

"What I did was bring them to an orchestra rehearsal, and invite them to sit with the players. As I conducted, I noticed certain things that were similar between a conductor and any other kind of leader. A conductor does everything just before it happens: it's too late if you act with it. I realised that what I was doing must look strange, so I stopped to explain. It's re-

ally no use for a CEO to be with the company. I said by way of analogy: he must be ahead of it."

From these beginnings, Zander developed, in tandem with his family-therapist wife Rosamund ("We separated 14 years ago, but she's a close friend and a brilliant, original thinker"), a new theory of leadership. It goes like this: leaders are people with vision, and our new global society needs new types of leaders, ones who can – in one of Zander's catchphrases – "think outside the box", who can make distinctions, challenge their assumptions. Contribution, rather than success, is the essence, he says, adding that to think otherwise is to be caught in a downward spiral where you are forever measuring performance against another indicator

Success in that sense, he says, doesn't matter; it's all invented and means nothing.

His ideas, as much as his performance, are cited as life-changing encounters with an immediate and lasting accessibility. Verena Veselina, a London-based investment banker, spoke of how "Zander's sense of contribution, or mission, really generates enthusiasm. People do discover different meanings in what he says; it depends on your own experiences."

"Music is just a metaphor for other experiences," Zander says, "and it's incredibly powerful in its ability to break the barriers that keep us separate and unable to express our humanity. It's something that I have access to."

Zander is clearly on to something. Even the Industrial Society has recently re-

ported in a new publication on leadership, that command management is no longer appropriate for modern times: what is needed now is a more people-oriented approach. It seems that Zander has anticipated them. In the Eighties, when firms wanted to develop leadership qualities among workers, they sent them over military assault courses. The message was blunt: business was an arena in which only the toughest survived.

Does Zander's popularity indicate the development of a softer, more caring society? Now even the RSC offers workshops to non-actors, in order to bring out ways of expression.

"It is precisely that," replies Zander. "The new global society calls for a different person. We used to think, if I can beat

my neighbour, I'll be better off. We now know that's not true. When we read about the disastrous Japanese economy, we realise that it will have an impact on us. It's now a global society, so it's more like a symphony orchestra than a football game.

"In an orchestra, the secret is to allow everybody's voice to be heard, for the violins and the trombones to be equally expressive and not drown the other out: if that happens, all you get is chaos."

Benjamin Zander conducts the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall, London, 8pm (0171-960 4222), with a pre-concert talk (RFH, 6pm; admission free with concert ticket)

Arms and the working man

THEATRE

TRUST
ROYAL COURT AT
THE AMBASSADORS
LONDON

Special in the British Army and his Northern Irish girlfriend who, in order to get out of that hellhole, are prepared to sell arms, and the couple of working-class "guardians" of the Protestant community who may be prepared to buy.

Trust doesn't whack you over the head much with symbolism, but there's a calculated, heavily ironic mismatch here between setting and purpose. The Knockagh Monument commemorates the people of Antrim who perished in the Great War fighting side by side with Englishmen. The picture this presents of a unified Protestantism tragically disintegrates in the present-day circumstances in Trust. The spot is the site of a tense meeting between a disaffected

writing and of Mick Gordon's wonderfully authentic, porous and specially daring production. It makes compelling psychological use of one of the steeply raked aisles at the Ambassadors and inserts a little landing pad right among the audience.

For an English person, the experience is rather as if you have been rendered invisible and abandoned, bracingly, to find your own way round the minutiæ of a world that doesn't know you're there. Most of the often very funny drama takes place in the sitting room of Patrick O'Kane's brilliantly banked-down, simmering and measurably mordant Geordie, the community's "protector". You brace yourself for the inevitable point that, in looking after the interests of all the folk who crowd his house, Geordie has neglected the needs of his



Patrick O'Kane, Gregg Fitzgerald and Colum Convey in 'Trust'

nearest and dearest – particularly the nerdy, misfit teenage son Jake (Gregg Fitzgerald) whose headaches and unsociable ways seem a threat to his father's virility. The kid is being picked on at school. Will the re-

taliations leave him in greater danger? Linked to the arms-dealing plot and involving the kind of alleged deals that Protestant police families and the British Government seem prepared to countenance to

prevent anything that would embarrass the peace process, the outcome depends on too much of a thriller switchback ride for my taste, and I must say I've never cared for endings that leave someone making a fatal telephone call.

It's the scenes with more slack and flexibility in them that impress, like the hilarious pub trip where Jake starts downing pints through simple thirst and half-wises up to what is required of him, thus turning the tables on Geordie and his kitzzy would-be macho sidekick (Colum Convey). Or the conversations where an appalling history of crime suddenly surfaces with a blackly comic casualness. That's the side of his gift in which Mitchell could place greater trust.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 3 April (0171-565 5000)

One for all and all for one

CLASSICAL

BERGLUND/ANDSNES/
LONDON PHILHARMONIC
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

as a single entity and the extraordinary components of Sibelius's icy narrative were focused without any discernible lapses in concentration. Berglund's priorities include a precisely charted overview, well-drilled execution and due attention to even the smallest instrumental detail. And what a work it is! Some of

the scoring dwarfs virtually anything else written at the turn of the century, especially in terms of the brass, lower woodwinds, harp and double-basses. There are startled climaxes, eerie alarms and stretches of musical time where nothing registers except the subtlest shudder.

Pöyjoki ends quietly (never a comforting sign with Sibelius), but on Sunday night high spirits jumped back with the start of Beethoven's Second (his first) Piano Concerto. The soloist was the young and prodigiously gifted

Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. His entry was poised and confident, forceful without sounding forced.

He has an ability to "think through" a score, knit its elements into a whole, so that every gesture contributes to the one cogent statement.

For me, however, the evening's musical high point was a reading of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony where those virtues of honesty, directness and a flat refusal to distort the musical line (one of the repertory's best-loved war horses) a new lease of life.

Berglund set to work at a sensibly mobile tempo, then spring into action for one of the most vividly atmospheric accounts of the first movement that I have heard in recent years.

Potential pitfalls are plentiful,

and the more indulgent conductors visit them frequently, but Berglund kept up the pace, drew from episode to episode without ceremony and inspired some of the LPO's finest playing this season.

In the slow movement, Richard Bissell's solo horn surpassed all reasonable expectations – a tender statement of

Marxism today

THEATRE

ANIMAL CRACKERS
LYRIC THEATRE
LONDON

ing guests, Joseph Alessi's permanently on-the-make Chico appears to hold a masters degree in hoofwing.

The lynchpin however, is the sublimely funny Ben Keaton, whose Groucho is a marvel. Wonderfully relaxed – and thus all the more engaging – punning and spinning through the joyously preposterous routines with timing to die for, leaping between insane good humour and defiant outrage like the master himself.

Unfortunately, whenever they're off-stage, everything plummets. You always did want to shoot the all-singing, romantic juvenile leads and these two are no exception, but the real problem is the direction. There's no rhythm to carry you over the holes in the structure – although decent lighting to isolate moments would help. It feels like everyone was so busy staging the gloriously anarchic set-pieces that they forgot everything else.

Yet watching the three central performances, all doubts vanish. Whenever they depart from the script – often – it hits you that these three pranksters are beyond mere impersonation. They're sensational.

DAVID BENEDICT

Booking: 0171-494 5045

FILM

They're out to get you

THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)
DIRECTOR: MARK PELLINGTON
STARRING: JEFF BRIDGES,
TIM ROBBINS, JOAN CUSACK,
MASON GAMBLE, HOPE DAVIS
117 MINUTES

It begins with a blurred figure weaving slowly down a road, like a marathon runner woozy with fatigue. The camera swoons around a young boy, who's sweating and hyperventilating; dimly recalled voices urge him on as spots of blood start to dapple his sneakers. A car pulls up, a man jumps out and takes the boy, who we now see is charred and bleeding, in his arms; next thing we know he's blasting through emergency room doors as hospital staff swarm around the stricken child.

The first few minutes of *Arlington Road* constitute probably the best opening of any film this year. Director Mark Pellington thrusts us right in *medias res* – that's Latin for a taut psychological thriller – before we've had a chance to get our bearings. Can the film sustain this ominous flurry? The man who rushes the kid to hospital is Michael Faraday (Jeff Bridges), a professor of American history in Washington DC; the boy is the son of his new neighbours across the way, Oliver Lang (Tim Robbins) and his wife Cheryl (Joan Cusack), all-American types who have barbecues in the back yard and sports clothes that are just the wrong side of casual. Apparently their boy had been fooling around with fireworks, but he'll be just fine.

Michael becomes friends with the Langs, even though he's not quite sure about Oliver. What are those strange architectural plans in his study, and why does he get mail from a university he's supposedly never attended? Tim Robbins has an alarming fringe, like Jim Carrey's in *Dumb and Dumber*, and there's something about the wholesomeness of his suburban everyman that feels deeply suspect. But then Jeff Bridges isn't quite all there either; he's done something odd to his voice that makes him sound as though he's holding an invisible thermometer under his tongue. Pellington seems to be conducting a little competition to see which of the two actors will freak out first.

My money was on Bridges, who presses the hysteria pedal early on and never takes his foot off thereafter. Michael is still



Jeff Bridges as obsessive as James Stewart in 'Rear Window', convinced that something is lurking across the street

haunted by the death of his wife, an FBI agent who was killed in a stakeout. She died for her country, a friend tells him. "She shouldn't have," he replies, bitterly angry about the government's shirking of responsibility in the affair. He keeps his wounds open by lecturing his classes on conspiracy theory and the complacent scapegoating of one man in a recent terrorist outrage. (The Oklahoma City bombing and militia groups are the co-ordinates by which the movie steers its plot.) His refusal to come to terms with his wife's murder has upset relationships both with his

girlfriend Brooke (Hope Davis) and his 10-year-old son, who wants to go off to scout camp with Lang's kid.

Brooke thinks Michael has gone off the deep end when she hears he's been tampering with Lang's mail. "Are you teaching the Bill of Rights this semester, or is that not in your programme?" You can see her point. He's much too shrill with his paranoia; if he just calmed down a little she might lend a more sympathetic ear. But, once Michael gets the scent that something's amiss, he's as obsessive as James Stewart in *Rear Window*, convincing him-

self (if nobody else) that something dangerous lurks behind the facade across the street. Pellington works up this atmosphere of creeping dread quite nicely in the first 45 minutes, even if he hasn't persuaded Bridges to pace his performance. There's a Hitchcockian stealth in the patient accumulation of detail – neat domestic interiors, an awkward dinner party, kids playing war games – which serves to assure and unsettle both at once. The film examines the idea of the neighbourhood watch, but it's not burglars you're meant to watch for – it's your neighbours.

It's in trying to close the plot's noose that *Arlington Road* rather loses its way. The psychological intricacy of its early stages gradually gives way to the more straightforward demands of a conspiracy thriller, and the clues to its meaning become steadily more pronounced, less plausible. Is that a wave or a fascist salute Oliver throws to Michael? Would Michael really take his students to the FBI murder scene where his wife died and practically accuse the authorities of a cover-up? The climax, with the gallant prof slaloming through city traffic in pursuit of a terrorist bomber, is

galumphingly soundtracked and unhappily recalls the dire thriller *Blown Away*, in which Bridges traded Irish accents with explosives genius Tommy Lee Jones. Yet this film is made of sterner stuff and delivers an ending of uncompromising bleakness: one imagines it tested very badly with preview audiences, which should earn Pellington and his writer, Ehren Kruger, respect for refusing to go the Hollywood way.

Indeed, the beginning and end of the movie are so unusual it almost encourages you to overlook the shortcomings of the middle. Two out of three ain't bad.

ROBERT HANKS ON TV

The appeal of 'Sunset Beach' is straightforward: it's the last bastion of Victorian melodrama

PAGE 18

★★★★★
**"AN ELECTRIFYING, INCENDIARY,
ADRENALINE-SOAKED
MASTERPIECE"**
Don Ridd - The Statesman

SEUL CONTRE TOUS

Critics' Prize
Cannes Film Festival
1998

I STAND ALONE

BY GASPARD NOÉ

★★★★★ "STUNNING"
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ALSO SHOWING

WAKING NED KIRK JONES (PG) ■ **SEUL CONTRE TOUS** GASPAR NOÉ (18) ■ **APRILE** NANNI MORETTI (NC)
■ **A NIGHT AT THE RENBURY** JOHN FORTENBERRY (15) ■ **SOUTHPAW** LIAM MCGRATH (15)



Waking Ned

WAKING NED is a tender-hearted Irish comedy about the mixed blessings of a huge Lottery win. Jackie O'Shea (Dan Bannen) learns from a notice in the *Irish Times* that there's a jackpot winner in his own little town of Tully More (pop 52), and after holding a chicken supper for his fellow villagers he and his wife Annie (Romola Flanagan) narrow down the suspects to one: Ned Devine. Ned indeed turns out to hold the winning ticket. He also turns out to be dead. Terrified that the windfall will go the same way as Ned's corpse, Jackie enlists the help of his old pal Michael (David Kelly) in an elaborate scheme to gull the Lottery people and pocket the loot for themselves.

Début writer-director Kirk Jones handles the often farcical plotting with admirable zest, and keeps the tendency towards twinkling Oisínness firmly in check. While the sight of Ian Bannen and David Kelly whizzing around bollock-naked on a motorcycle isn't altogether agreeable, the easy familiarity

of these two old staggers is nonetheless key to the film's charm. A subplot involving a pig farmer and a single mum is sketchy, and the black comedy ending is straight out of *Father Ted*, but *Waking Ned*, even at its flimsiest, is hard to dislike.

Nanni Moretti's *Aprile* isn't the worst film of the year, but it's certainly the most inconsequential. A follow-up to his acclaimed *Dear Diary*, it's a rambling tour through the Roman film-maker's latest occupations. On the professional front, he dithers over making a musical about a pastry chef, assembling cast and crew only to abandon the project on the first day of shooting. Personally, he's as nervous as a kitten over his wife's pregnancy, and is further distracted by television reports on the forthcoming Italian elections.

Moretti is an excitable, hand-wringing type, which might explain why his film is so desultory and uneven: whether buzzing around Rome on his Vespa or ranting on a soapbox at Speak-

er's Corner in Hyde Park, he seems unable to concentrate on anything for more than five minutes. This might not matter so much if he had anything that resembled a point, but he seems almost proud of his own whimsical irrelevance. How his wife puts up with him I couldn't say. *Aprile* is no more than a home movie that should have stayed exactly there – at home.

Any hopes raised by the sight of Amy (Clueless) Heckerling's name in the opening production credits were dashed within five minutes of *A Night at the Roxbury*. Expanded from a Saturday

night *Live sketch*, which will mean practically nothing over here, this comedy about a pair of lame-brain disco playboys is clueless in all the wrong ways. Steve and Doug Butabi (Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan) work in their dad's fake-flower shop by day; by night they cruise around LA being refused entry into all the desirable nightspots. So they dream of opening their own dance place and – hey presto – find an unlikely patron in the form of a nightclub impresario (Chazz Palminteri, his name significantly uncredited), the only person in town who can't see through their fake tan and vulgar jewellery to the dorks they really are. Perhaps the brothers' head-bobbing disco moves are funny within a two-minute sketch, but the script (which took three people to write) is short on wit and long on daft slapstick routines. After a while you may find the film's frenetic energy a source of fascination in itself: how long can they keep this up? The an-

swer is 82 minutes, though judging by the funeral silence at the press screening it probably seemed a good deal longer.

"You live alone, you die alone" – thus reflects the protagonist of Gaspar Noé's *Seul Contre Tous*, a flashy, brutal, nihilistic study of a mind in freefall. Set in the cheerless reaches of provincial France, it burrows deep into the consciousness of an unemployed butcher (Philippe Nahon) whose parents died in a concentration camp. Having done time for knifing a man he believed had abused his daughter, he goes on the run after viciously assaulting his pregnant mistress. Noé makes us privy to the butcher's interior monologue, a relentless stream of filth, rage and despair that seems to admit no relief.

The film has already garnered prizes from festivals around the world, including the Critics' Prize at Cannes, and will doubtless enthral filmgoers who like their misanthropy served raw and bloody.

To be honest, I found the whole thing a trial to sit through; the pitiable anguish of Nahon's performance aside, the grimy captions, intermittent gunblasts and modish editing all speak of a director almost adolescently eager to spatter. Liam McGrath's documentary *Southpaw* recounts two years in the life of Francis Barrett, a 19-year-old light welterweight boxer from Galway who became a folk-hero when he qualified for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. An unusual folk-hero at that: Barrett was the first traveller ever to represent Ireland, a background as beleaguered and poor as any pugilist's. The film values grit and edge over style, and the boxing has more the look of a brawl than any contest of agility. But Barrett carries himself with a dignity and a curious innocence one doesn't readily associate with his profession.

AQ

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VIDEO WATCH

Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels (18), available to rent

FOUR LADS about-town, £500,000 in hock to the local mobster Harry the Hatchet, are about to find out how he earned his nickname, unless they can stump up within a week.

Against all the odds, Guy

Ritchie's cocksure tribute to the classic British crime caper movie – the most financially successful British film of last year – succeeds. The dialogue is a thinly disguised love-letter to East End geezer patois, the acting is even more embarrassing and the various sub-plots, including a bunch of ex-public

schoolboy hash dealers, barely hang together. Ritchie more than makes amends elsewhere. It is shot on sepia stock and stitched together with all manner of bravura touches – slo-mo, collage, time-lapse – but the final effect is gauntier than a gangster's diamond tie-pin, and just as alluring.

Sting notwithstanding, the minor character casting is spot-on, with Vinne Jones more than holding his own. And even if it occasionally feels like a pop promo, at least the music sound-track can't be faulted. But it's the all-round swagger of the film that convinces. Top banana. MIKE HIGGINS

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to win a fortune?))

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Un homme et des femmes

Women, their lives and dilemmas, have been the constant subject of Eric Rohmer's films over forty years. Geoffrey MacNab meets the three actresses who appear in his latest, *An Autumn's Tale*

Anybody who tries to approach Eric Rohmer's new feature, *An Autumn's Tale*, expecting mist, gloom and mellow fruitfulness is likely to be disappointed. The two main characters may be women in their forties rather than the chic twentysomethings who have appeared in most of Rohmer's recent movies. They may be melancholic about the state of their love lives. (As one sighs wistfully to the other, "all the best men are taken".) The comedy may be tinged with sadness. But the truth is, the late-summer sun blazes down throughout. Regardless of the romantic complications, the tone of the film (the last of Rohmer's "Tales of the Four Seasons") remains remarkably cheerful. But for once, Rohmer was thwarted by the weather. "He wanted more autumnal colours" reveals the actress Alexa Portal, "but the colours stayed green and the light was very soft."

Rohmer, now well into his seventies, is the most elusive of directors. It used to be claimed that not even his wife knew he was a film maker; "Rohmer" itself is an alias. (His real name is Jean-Marie Maurice Scherer.) When *An Autumn's Tale* was unveiled in Venice last September, the director wasn't there to accompany the screening. Instead, he sent his three leading ladies as emissaries.

Interviewed one balmy autumn afternoon on the terrace of the Excelsior (the most luxurious hotel on the Venice Lido), they talked about him with reverence and affectionate curiosity, as if they were describing a distinguished but eccentric elderly relative.

One of them, Béatrice Romand, first met Rohmer 30 years ago, when she auditioned as a 17-year-old for *Claire's Knee* (1970). She recalls about him with reverence and affectionate curiosity, as if they were describing a distinguished but eccentric elderly relative.

Interviewed one balmy autumn afternoon on the terrace of the Excelsior (the most luxurious hotel on the Venice Lido), they talked about him with reverence and affectionate curiosity, as if they were describing a distinguished but eccentric elderly relative.



Alexia Portal and Béatrice Romand in 'An Autumn's Tale'

"I was thinking maybe he was a director of porno films. All I wanted was to get out of that room."

On the face of it, Rohmer and Romand had nothing in common. Whereas the film-maker was a professor, a reserved, academic figure already in his forties. She was young, knew nothing of movies ("I didn't have money to go to the cinema") and hadn't even been to university.

"He was an intellectual and I was somebody from the heart," is how she characterises the difference between them. Nevertheless, she won the part in *Claire's Knee* and has worked with Rohmer recently. He has become less academic, "less like a professor from the university...he's now more involved in life than the abstraction of literature". He clearly regards her as a muse. "Maybe it's simple flattery," she says, "but each time I'm shooting a film for him I feel him looking at me with jubilation, and it gives me incredible pleasure."

Everything about Magali, Rohmer's character in *An Autumn's Tale*, suggests ripeness. She's a wine-grower whose vineyard (in stark contrast to those of her neighbours) is messy, luxuriant and full of weeds. She won't use herbicides in case they ruin the taste of her vintages. Nor are her relationships with her children and would-be lovers any tidier than her vineyard. Rohmer tracked down a real wine-grower in the South of France

as a model for Magali. Says Romand: "He presented me with this woman, saying 'Béatrice, she's not a sexy woman. She's a little bit fat, a little bit clumsy. She doesn't wear make-up. She's spontaneous and she has large gestures. I copied them exactly as he wanted." Most important of all, says Romand with a smile, Rohmer didn't want Magali to be "refined".

Like her character in the movie, Romand in person is imperious, scatty and very funny. She fits between English and French, and chuckles and scolds whenever she is asked what she believes to be a stupid question. She trails a kind of benevolent chaos in her wake, "Compromis?" she fires out when her interviewer scratches his head after a long, rambling answer about the difference between written French and spoken French. She also disapproves, she confides, of how the once-meticulous Rohmer now sometimes lapses into slang. There were occasions when she had to set him straight about his use of grammar. "He told me, 'Béatrice, say it like that.' I said no! Now, I am very proud that I know 'ow to talk literature. I want to say it correctly!"

Not that she has anything but respect for the gentle way in which Rohmer habitually treats his cast.

"He is cool, as young people say."

Made Rivière, who plays Magali's best friend, has also worked with Rohmer before, starring in *The Aviator's Wife* (1980) and *The Green Ray* (1985). "I have the impression he hasn't changed...he's even more quiet today...a quiet man, a very wise man," she ruminates.

An Autumn's Tale is full of private moments between Magali and Isabelle, and between Magali and her son's beautiful young girlfriend, Rosine (Alexia Portal). The main topic for discussion is their shortcomings ("they're all idiots or perverts"), what they are good for, and how they should best be snared.

What does a septuagenarian such as Rohmer know about the innermost yearnings of young and middle-aged women?

"He is accurate, but I don't know

why he finds something poetical in what women say or do. He understands," confides Rivière. "He talks about universal things. That's why the films don't get old with time," suggests Alexa Portal. "His vision of the Nineties generation is very accurate, especially in *A Summer's Tale* and *An Autumn's Tale*."

Portal scoffs at the idea that Rohmer is out of touch by comparison with the young mavericks of French cinema, figures such as Mathieu Kassovitz (*La Haine*), François Ozon (*Sitcom*) and Gaspar Noé (*Seul Contre Tous*). "He doesn't wear fashionable clothing, but that's why many young people

can recognise themselves through these characters."

As for his directing style, all three women describe him as the most unobtrusive of film-makers. "He doesn't give direction at all," says Portal. "He doesn't like to talk about the psychology of the characters...he doesn't want the actors to think too much about what they're going to do and say. He has a small crew which always works quickly."

"It's very pleasant shooting; it's not heavy and technical," adds Rivière. "We're not kept waiting for a long time; he never does more than one or two takes, so we're not tense...it's like in life."

He tends to shoot in three-minute takes and there are no restrictions in terms of movement - the camera will follow the actors. "But every comma, every word is important. There is no improvisation," says Portal. "And if he gets bored or doesn't like the light, he'll just pack up for the day."

These three actors are trying to be helpful. They answer every question thoughtfully and politely, but somehow they just can't bring Rohmer into focus. At the end of an hour's conversation, he remains as mysterious as ever. Béatrice Romand makes him sound a little hit like the Scarlet Pimpernel. "He is

always surprising...you wait for him here and you find him there."

Portal agrees. "He cultivates an air of mystery about himself."

That doesn't mean that Rohmer is a misanthropic magus, pulling the strings behind the scenes. *An Autumn's Tale* is a gentle, warm-hearted comedy that will be accessible to all audiences. It is just that the man who made the film is hard to fathom. On one level, Rohmer's actors are perfect spokespersons for him. The more they try to reveal, the more inscrutable they make him seem.

An Autumn's Tale is released on 26 March.

OUR FAVOURITE ROHMER HEROINES

The Collector, 1966
Stuck in St Tropez, bright, languid teenager Haydée Politoff plays havoc with two sophisticated best friends in this most lackadaisical but quietly serious example of Rohmer's work. As usual with this director, what begins as a study of the capricious female turns into a damning critique of the complacent male.

Claire's Knee, 1970
You fear the worst - middle-aged writer toys with pixie Lolita (Béatrice Romand), whilst lustng

after glowing goddess (Laurence de Monaghan), but all three characters grow into their skin and Claire's indifference to Jean-Claude Brialy's oppressive gawping is positively sublime.

Love in the Afternoon, 1972
Hard to understand why Zouzou didn't go on to bigger and greater things. She's perfect as Chloe, the beguiling lay-about who fixes on married Bernard Verley as the answer to her confused prayers. She's no

conventional beauty - all ramshackle hair and chunky thighs - but her presence is haunting.

Full Moon In Paris, 1984
Pascale Ogier is almost unbearable in this film - so vulnerable, pale and paper thin that Rohmer's detached amusement for once feels misplaced. However, her jittery search for a decent man - one both hunky and deep - still grips.

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The inquiry into expanding Heathrow is over, but a decision is years away. By John Paul Flintoff

Terminal turbulence

In the softy lit lobby of the Renaissance Hotel at Heathrow Airport, a security guard writes on a white board: "This is Day 625". The room behind the board used to contain the hotel swimming pool, but since 16 May 1995 it has housed the longest planning inquiry in UK history - that into the plans of the British Airports Authority (BAA) to build a fifth terminal at Britain's largest airport.

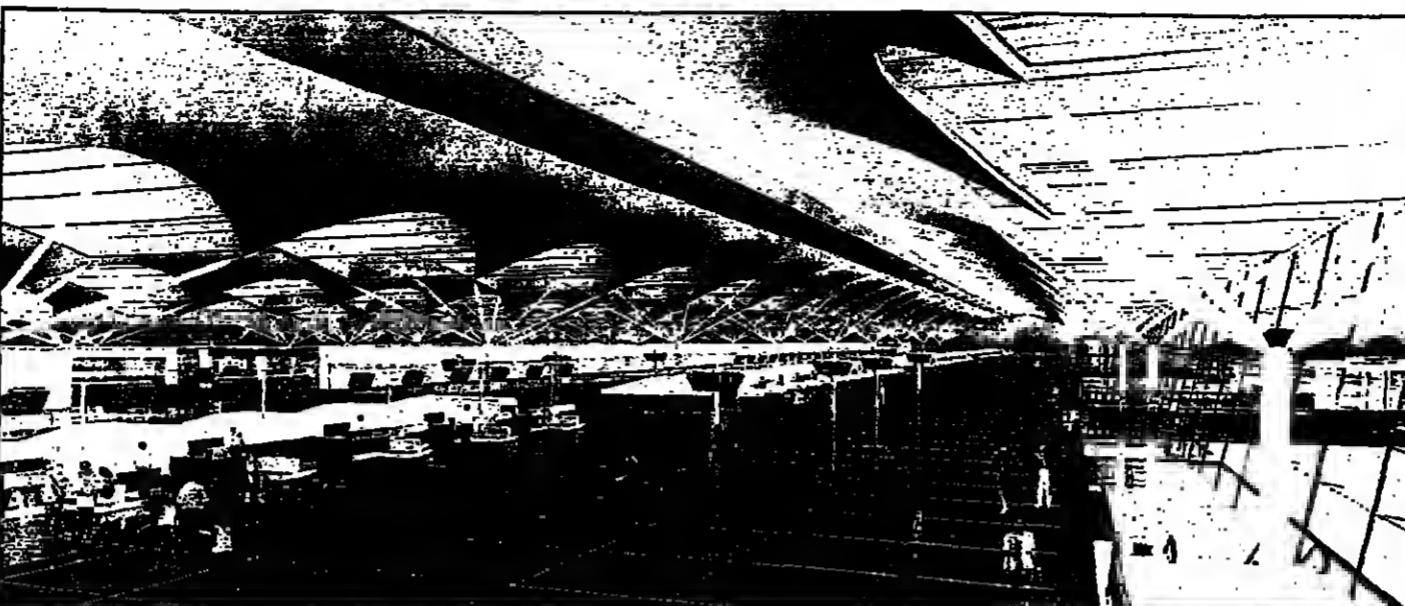
Yesterday the inquiry, launched by the last Conservative government, drew to an end. It has lasted nearly half as long again as the previous record-breaker, the inquiry into Sizewell B (which lasted 340 days). BAA - like its opponents - has been obliged to set up an office in hotel rooms overlooking a runway.

"I enjoyed it for the first few years," says BAA's principal opponent, Hillingdon Borough Council's in-house planning lawyer, Craig Pile, apparently without irony. "But we stopped staring at the planes a long time ago."

Over the last four years, more than 800 witnesses have given evidence to the inspector, Roy Vandermeer QC. Together with the lawyers, they contributed to a grand total of 35 million words on the court transcript. And 25,000 people have sent in their written opinions. The most telling moments, says Pile, have been evening sessions for the public.

"The sincerity that comes across is really striking. People have genuinely been woken up at four in the morning; their lives have been made very, very bad. People around here," he insists, "are predominantly against expanding the airport, whatever BAA may say."

But aviation is growing. Last year, 15 billion people around the world flew on scheduled flights, 50 per cent more than in 1987 - and numbers are expected to rise by 5 per cent a year for the next 20 years. Heathrow accounted for 60 million passengers through its existing four terminals, compared with 51 million in 1994. With a fifth terminal, say the opponents, the



An artist's impression of the proposed fifth terminal at Heathrow; it would constitute Europe's third biggest airport

number is likely to top 100 million.

For the site of the proposed new terminal, BAA has selected a former sewage farm. But Friends of the Earth argues that this is an important habitat for wintering birds, and a vital buffer zone for nearby communities.

Friends of the Earth claims that peripheral changes, such as the expansion of road networks, will have a substantial adverse impact.

Heathrow Airport was built on high-quality farmland during the Second World War using wartime regulations to avoid public examinations of the plan. Since 1947, the four terminals, two runways, car-parking, freight and service areas have expanded to cover nearly 3,000 acres.

There is enough Tarmac, according to Friends of the Earth, to build 200 miles of three-lane motorway. The noise severely disturbs some half a million people; and the planes - coming in over London - disturb many more. The fifth terminal, if it goes ahead, would itself constitute the third largest airport in Europe.

Before the 1997 general election, John Prescott condemned the plan: "There will ultimately be more

fights over the most congested airway in Europe," he said, "at great cost to the environment and to congestion around the airport."

The inspector who passed the plans for the fourth terminal, Ian Gidewell QC, affirmed that it should be the last. The firmly pro-business Tory minister Norman (now Lord) Tebbit once told the House of Commons: "the proposed fifth terminal

meets the expense of the inquiry - effectively offering a public subsidy. No such funding was offered to the objectors, despite requests.

Initially, 18 local authorities in West London and the Thames Valley formally opposed BAA. But all of them, except for Hillingdon - the statutory planning authority for Heathrow - pulled out a year ago, because of a lack of funds. Other

City solicitors Cameron McKenna, housed in a suite of 25 hotel rooms, Hillingdon has just two rooms. With an annual budget of around £450,000, Mr Pile and Mr Smith have been sorely constrained. They have had to request several adjournments.

"There is so much to do," says Mr Pile. "We will be preparing evidence on one topic, such as noise pollution, and at the same time, David is [in the tribunal] covering another topic altogether. And then there is all the correspondence."

In such circumstances, it is hard to see that Hillingdon can win. But even if that happens, many observers suspect that the Government may allow the fifth terminal to go ahead.

BAA will have to wait at least until 2002 before starting any building work, which is expected to cost around £1.8bn and last nine years. It may take longer, because the inspector is expected to take two years to write his report. And by that time, the Government, facing a general election, may choose to postpone its decision.

CV
CHRIS MOTTERSHEAD,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF AIRTOURS



Chris Mottershead, 40, is managing director of Airtours. Airtours holidays takes more than 3 million customers on holiday every year and has a turnover in excess of £1bn. It is part of Airtours plc which carries more than 8.6 million people and is the world's largest holiday company.

"I DEFINITELY wasn't an intellectual at school. I got sufficient O-levels and A-levels to secure a place at university, but playing sports and making friends was more of a priority for me at that time."

Even by the time I was at Warwick University, I didn't have clear ambitions. I studied history because it fascinated me rather than because of any burning desire to become a historian. It was only when I wound up on a graduate placement scheme at what was then Wales Gas that I realised I needed more directly useful qualifications.

Concluding that business was for me, I used the company for its training in accountancy. Accountancy was something that I felt I could fall back on, and I was sure it would open some doors.

Even before I'd received my results, I handed in my notice. I moved into smaller businesses, starting with a printing firm where I worked in the business forms division. Because that wasn't so big, it was possible to learn so much more about how the company was run. You lack the security of a large corporation, but everything you do and say in a small company has a major impact. You're closer to its heart and so you have a far greater understanding about what makes it tick. Within six months, I was promoted to running the whole accounting department.

It was then that I had my first experience of being treated differently because of over-complicate it.

status. There was this strong attitude within the firm of "management versus the workers", and so as soon as I became "one of them", people stopped talking to me. I learnt that anyone working in management needs to work hard at breaking down any barriers that are created because of that.

By the late Eighties, I'd worked in a couple of other companies in senior positions and finally became finance director at Aspro Travel Ltd. Shortly after I joined, the Gulf war began. Aspro specialised in travel in that area and we really had to struggle to survive. I learnt for the first time that however good you are in the business world, there are external forces that can surprise and threaten you at any time. But the challenge did me an enormous amount of good. After all, if you can manage a business under those kind of circumstances, the good times are easy.

Indeed, five years after Aspro was bought by Airtours I became managing director.

With hindsight, I wouldn't put my success wholly down to my qualifications or financial understanding, but also to common sense. Sometimes you just need to rely on gut feelings. It's about having business acumen and knowing which levers to pull at what time without having to think about it too much. In all honesty, I think business can work simply. People just

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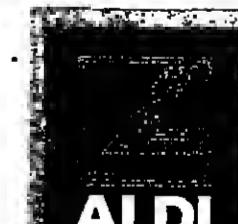
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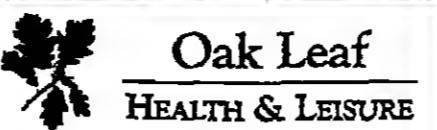
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4.35pm, 7pm Patch Adams 1pm,
3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Pleasantville
1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Pleasantville
9.15pm Shakespeare In Love
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Thin
Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm This Year's
Love 9.15pm You've Got
Mail 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

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Patch Adams 1.30pm, 3.55pm
6.20pm, 8.55pm Pleasantville
12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The
Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm You've Got
Mail 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0705-00415) BR: Streatham
Hill Patch Adams 2.15pm, 5.45pm,
8.20pm Shakespeare In Love
2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm This Year's
Love 5.25pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR:
Sutton Hill Patch Adams Beloved
12.45pm, 4.1pm, 7.45pm A Bug's
Life 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 7pm Patch
Adams 6.20pm, 8.55pm Pleasantville
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Thin
Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm You've Got
Mail 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0900-5888990) BR: Sutton/
Morden A Bug's Life 1.05pm,
3.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm Little
Voice 2pm, 7pm Madeline
2.15pm Patch Adams 12.50pm,
3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare
In Love 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm
This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4pm,
7.40pm You've Got Mail 12.40pm,
3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

SWISS COTTAGE

WARNER VILLAGE FINCHLEY ROAD (0171-604 3059) BR/Finchley
Road A Bug's Life 1.30pm,
3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm Patch
Adams 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm,
7.35pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville
1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm
Shakespeare In Love 1.20pm, 3pm,
6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line
1pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,
9pm This Year's Love 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend
10.25pm You've Got Mail@
12.40pm, 3.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR:
Turnpike Lane Patch Adams 3.40pm,
6.05pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love
4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Urban
Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0900-5888990) BR: Surrey Quays
Beloved 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.05pm,
1.05pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm,
6pm, 8.40pm Patch Frost 2.10pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.20pm Patch
Adams 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm,
7.35pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville
1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm
Shakespeare In Love 1.20pm, 3pm,
6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line
1pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,
9pm This Year's Love 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend
10.25pm You've Got Mail@
12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Uxbridge
A Bug's Life 1.0pm, 3.20pm,
5.30pm Patch Adams 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Thin
Red Line 7.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0424) BR: Walthamstow
Central Patch Adams 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare In Love
2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

WALTON-ON-THAMES

THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01922-
252825) BR: Walton-on-Thames
Hideous Kinky 3pm, 5.40pm The
Thin Red Line 7.40pm You've Got
Mail@ 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:

Tham Patch Adams 3.40pm,
5.35pm, 8.30pm You've Got Mail@
3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0922) BR:
Willesden Green As Abt Chalen
1pm Shakespeare In Love 6.30pm,
8pm Smart Soldiers 4.30pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/B:
Wimbledon A Bug's Life 2.10pm,
3.20pm, 5.30pm Pleasantville
2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare
In Love 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)
Turnpike Lane As Abt Chalen
8.45pm Daag 2pm Kuchche
Draage 5.30pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South
Woodford Patch Adams 2.40pm,
5.50pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare In
Love 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.10pm

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Pleasantville
3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Urban Leg-
end 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

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CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place,
SW7 (0171-838 2244) L'Horizon de
Ma Famille: British Premiere (NC)
6.30pm Bent Family: Introduced
by Nouri Bouzid (NC) 8.30pm

ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930
3647) The Eclipse (NC) 6.30pm
Few of Us (NC) 7pm, 9pm Le
Amico (NC) 9.15pm

THE LUX HOMEN Square, NI (0171-
694 0201) Blue Black Permanent
(PG) 7pm A House in Jerusalem
(NC) 9pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South
Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) The
Negotiator (15) 2.30pm Make
Mine Mink: Strictly T-T (NC)
6.15pm Forbidden (PG) 6.30pm
The Magnificent Ambersons (U)
7.30pm Blood for Dracula (15)
8.30pm Samba Traore (NC) 8.45pm

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444-
6789) La Vita è Bella (PG) 1pm,
3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8pm

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Adams 5.20pm, 8.20pm Saving
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Patch Adams 1.30pm, 3.55pm
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Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8.20pm
This Year's Love 9.15pm You've Got
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STREATHAM

ABC (0705-00415) BR: Streatham
Hill Patch Adams 2.15pm, 5.45pm,
8.20pm Shakespeare In Love
2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm This Year's
Love 5.25pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR:
Sutton Hill Patch Adams Beloved
12.45pm, 4.1pm, 7.45pm A Bug's
Life 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 7pm Patch
Adams 6.20pm, 8.55pm Pleasantville
3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Thin
Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm You've Got
Mail@ 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.30pm

SUTTON

UCI 6 (0900-5888990) BR: Sutton/
Morden A Bug's Life 1.05pm,
3.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm Little
Voice 2pm, 7pm Madeline
2.15pm Patch Adams 12.50pm,
3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare
In Love 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm
This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4pm,
7.40pm You've Got Mail@ 12.40pm,
3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

SWISS COTTAGE

WARNER VILLAGE FINCHLEY ROAD (0171-604 3059) BR/Finchley
Road A Bug's Life 1.30pm,
3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm Patch
Adams 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm,
7.35pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville
1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm
Shakespeare In Love 1.20pm, 3pm,
6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line
1pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,
9pm This Year's Love 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend
10.25pm You've Got Mail@
12.40pm, 3.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE

CORONET (0181-888 2519) BR:
Turnpike Lane Patch Adams 3.40pm,
6.05pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love
4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Urban
Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0900-5888990) BR: Surrey Quays
Beloved 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.05pm,
1.05pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm,
6pm, 8.40pm Patch Frost 2.10pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.20pm Patch
Adams 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.25pm,
7.35pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville
1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm
Shakespeare In Love 1.20pm, 3pm,
6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line
1pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,
9pm This Year's Love 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend
10.25pm You've Got Mail@
12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Uxbridge
A Bug's Life 1.0pm, 3.20pm,
5.30pm Patch Adams 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Thin
Red Line 7.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-902 0424) BR: Walthamstow
Central Patch Adams 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare In Love
2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

WALTON-ON-THAMES

THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01922-
252825) BR: Walton-on-Thames
Hideous Kinky 3pm, 5.40pm The
Thin Red Line 7.40pm You've Got
Mail@ 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:

Tham Patch Adams 3.40pm,
5.35pm, 8.30pm You've Got Mail@
3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0922) BR:
Willesden Green As Abt Chalen
1pm Shakespeare In Love 6.30pm,
8pm Smart Soldiers 4.30pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (08705-050007) BR/B:
Wimbledon A Bug's Life 2.10pm,
3.20pm, 5.30pm Pleasantville
2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare
In Love 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.10pm

WOOD GREEN

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)
Turnpike Lane As Abt Chalen
8.45pm Daag 2pm Kuchche
Draage 5.30pm

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: South
Woodford Patch Adams 2.40pm,
5.50pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare In
Love 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm You've Got
Mail@ 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.10pm

WOOLWICH

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Pleasantville
3pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Urban Leg-
end 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR

